

IRA bomb-kills Belfast policeman

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — The Irish Republican Army (IRA) said Saturday it carried out a bombing that killed a part-time policeman in the first fatal guerrilla attack in Northern Ireland this year. Police said a police reservist, Ivan Crawford, 49, died Friday night in Enniskillen, about 110 kilometres west of Belfast, after a bomb exploded in a trash can as he walked by. A second policeman, standing on the opposite side of the street, was slightly hurt. The IRA claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement issued to news organisations. The group is fighting to drive the British from Northern Ireland and unite the Protestant-dominated province with the overwhelmingly Roman Catholic Irish Republic. A press officer at Belfast Police Headquarters said the Enniskillen bomb was placed in a trash can and detonated by remote control as the officer, who was on patrol with a colleague in the town centre, passed by.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordanian Foundation
جورديان تايمز مؤسسة سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية للرأي

Nakasone leaves for Europe

TOKYO (AP) — Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone left for Finland and three Eastern European countries Saturday for a week-long visit aimed at deepening bilateral ties and improving East-West dialogue. The premier's trip is the first official visit ever by a Japanese prime minister to East Germany, Yugoslavia, and Poland. Former Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira went to Yugoslavia in 1980 for the funeral of President Josip Broz Tito. Mr. Nakasone will meet on Sunday with Finnish Prime Minister Kalevi Sorsa and on Monday with President Mauno Koivisto. After travelling to East Berlin Monday afternoon, Mr. Nakasone is scheduled to hold talks Tuesday with Chairman of the Council of State Erich Honecker and then depart on Wednesday for Belgrade for talks with Yugoslav officials. The prime minister will leave Thursday afternoon for Warsaw on the last leg of his trip.

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China, Soviets discuss Mideast

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union and China held consultations on the Middle East in Peking on Friday and Saturday, the official Soviet News Agency TASS reported. It said the talks covered the question of a settlement in the region, but gave no details of their content. TASS said the consultations were led by Vladimir Polyakov, head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Near Eastern Department, and Zhu Yinglu, who directs the West Asia and North Africa Department of the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

Egyptian minister flies to Iraq

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian Interior Minister Zaki Badr flew to Iraq Saturday on a four-day official visit during which he will meet President Saddam Hussein. An Interior Ministry spokesman said Mr. Badr's talks would centre on issues relating to Egyptian workers in Iraq. Mr. Badr told reporters he will deliver a verbal message from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to President Hussein.

9 killed by Thai grenade blast

BANGKOK (R) — Nine people, including four children, were killed when a hand grenade exploded during an open-air movie at a Buddhist temple in Bangkok, police said Saturday. Hospitals treated 18 people for shrapnel wounds. Police said the explosion occurred when an unidentified man dropped the grenade, apparently by accident, as he walked through the audience.

Nicaraguan train wreck claims 10 lives

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — A passenger train jumped the rails near the southern city of Masaya early Saturday, killing at least 10 people and injuring 35, officials said. Sergio Aguirre, manager of the state-owned railway, said in a telephone interview the accident occurred just west of Masaya, 35 kilometres south of Managua.

Shultz urges peaceful end to apartheid

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz called on the South African government Saturday to take three specific steps toward speeding the peaceful end to apartheid. At a news conference in Nairobi, Mr. Shultz urged South Africa to lift the ban on outlawed political parties, release anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela and open negotiations with all relevant political groups in the country.

Pell heads U.S. Senate committee

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Claiborne Pell will be chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee in the Democratic-controlled Senate of the 100th Congress. Pell served as ranking Democrat when Republicans constituted a majority and controlled key Senate posts.

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Iraq reports gaining upper hand in latest Iranian attack

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Saturday its forces hold the initiative in southern war front fighting with full control of a battle against invading Iranian troops.

A High Command Communique said Iraqi forces had absorbed all Iranian attacks launched from footholds gained earlier in an area about 10 kilometres east of Basra.

All enemy groups sent to approach our positions have been wiped out and our forces started purging the footholds, supported by heavy fire," the communique said.

A field commander earlier said an Iraqi armoured division attacked positions taken by the Iranians inside Iraq in the offensive launched Friday towards Basra, Iraq's second city.

He reported fierce fighting on the eastern bank of fish lake after the invaders had been cleared from its western bank.

Thousands of Iranian troops had been killed and their corpses

littered the lake and its banks, said a commander in Iraq's Third Army Corps defending Basra.

Iraqi warplanes and helicopter gunships flew sorties from first light in support of the counterattack. Two Iranian F-5 Phantom jets were shot down on dog fights over the battle zone, a military spokesman said.

The spokesman also said surface-to-surface missiles were fired Saturday at targets in the west Iranian towns of Dezful, Ramhormuz, Nahavand and Buzajed. It was the first Iraqi missile attack on Iranian towns since June, 1985.

He said Iraqi warplanes raided Qom, Esfahan and Dezful Friday night, but gave no details on results of the Iraqi strikes.

Baghdad has said it will annihilate whole Iranian cities if

Tehran persists in shelling Basra. It reported that 16 civilians were killed and 64 injured in an Iranian bombardment of the city Friday.

The Iraqis say the Iranian offensive, the second on the southern front of the Iran-Iraq war in less than three weeks, is aimed at isolating Basra, occupying it and establishing a puppet regime there.

In another development, Iraq said its warplanes attacked a "large naval target," a term used by Baghdad for an oil tanker or

merchant ship, in the northern Gulf Saturday.

It was the second raid reported by Iraq on shipping in the Gulf in three days. There has been no confirmation from independent shipping sources in the region.

The military spokesman denied reports from Tehran that 18 Iraqi warplanes had been shot down by Iranian anti-aircraft defences since Iran launched its ground offensive early on Friday.

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U.S. supplied intelligence data to Iran

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The U.S. supplied intelligence data about Iraq to Iran at the same time it was selling weapons to Tehran, according to a U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee report quoted by the New York Times.

The item, which was carried by the newspaper on Thursday, made a new disclosure to previous reports that Washington gave Iraq information about Iran, partly to offset any advantage the weapons might have given Iran in its long and bloody war with Iraq.

The Senate's report was carried by the National Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) and the New York Times' story confirmed the main points of the corporation's account but made this new disclosure.

Kuwait resolute on hosting OIC summit

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait has made known its determination to host an Islamic summit scheduled for Jan. 26-28 despite Iranian moves to have the venue switched, and still hopes Tehran will attend.

Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Saturday told reporters Mr. Sharifuddin Pirzadah, secretary general of the 46-member Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), would travel to Kuwait next Tuesday to discuss arrangements for the summit.

He confirmed Kuwait had contacted the OIC with a reply to a formal request by Tehran to have the summit site changed, but gave no details.

Officials Saturday pressed ahead with preparations at a sumptuous 100 million dinar (\$340 million) conference centre built specially for the summit several kilometres south of the desert state's capital.

The Kuwait News Agency KUNA reported Friday night that a message to the OIC "made it clear that Kuwait hopes and welcomes Iran's participation in the fifth Islamic summit conference, which will be held in Kuwait."

Kuwait has pinned its hopes on the summit to yield a new Islamic initiative on the Iran-Iraq war, now in its seventh year.

Al Rai Al Aam newspaper, referring to a spate of Gulf shipping attacks blamed on Iran and singling out vessels using Kuwaiti ports, warned events could "such irresponsible acts could produce uncontrolled results and might furnish the big countries with justification to interfere and build up (militarily) under the pretext of protection and deterrence..." it said.

The Emir, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Saturday received a special envoy carrying a message from Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi, and another from Saudi Arabia's King Fahd. Details were not disclosed.

Diplomats have speculated that leaders of the hardline Arab powers Libya and Syria, who support Iran in the war, would stay away from the summit.

But a local newspaper reported this week that Col. Qaddafi was seriously reconsidering his ties with Iran because of its arms dealings with the United States.

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait's other allies in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) — Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the

Reagan faces new revelations on Iran arms deal

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Reagan, recovering from prostate surgery, has returned to the White House amid a fresh series of revelations over the Iran arms scandal.

The New York Times reported Saturday that Lt.-Col. Oliver North, fired from the National Security Council (NSC) last November, had coordinated arms shipments to Nicaragua contra rebels through Portugal.

Colonel North was fired and his NSC boss Admiral John Poindexter resigned after the disclosure that proceeds from the Iran arms sales had been diverted to the contra.

The Times said the shipments through Portugal threw doubt on White House denials that it had defied a congressional ban on aid for the contra.

The Washington Post reported Saturday that the Senate Intelligence Committee had been told an envoy to the then Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres initiated the idea of diverting funds to the contra.

The newspaper said a secret Senate Intelligence Committee report attributed the proposal to Peres' "special assistant for counter-terrorism," Amir Nir.

It did not suggest a motive for the Israeli proposal and Israeli officials have denied similar allegations in the past.

The reports followed the release Friday by the White House of top secret documents in which Mr. Reagan formally approved the arms sales.

Their release was intended to bolster Mr. Reagan's assertion that the sales were part of a broad effort to develop ties with moderate political factions.

But one of the documents, a memo prepared by Col. North in January 1986, implied a link between the proposed sale of 4,000 Tow anti-tank missiles to Iran and the release of the hostages.

"...This approach through the government of Iran may well be our only way to achieve the release of the Americans held in Beirut," it said.

The memo was presented to Mr. Reagan verbally by Adm. Poindexter at the time Mr. Reagan approved the sales. About 2,000 Tow missiles and spare parts for more than 500 Hawk anti-aircraft missiles were sent to Iran.

Meanwhile the Baltimore Sun, in a report from Washington, quoted the White House as saying details of a 1986 meeting between Vice President George Bush and Nir were deleted from the Senate Intelligence Committee's declassified draft report on the Iran-contra affair by administration officials and "in retrospect" should not have been.

Murphy in Cairo after stopover in Amman

CAIRO (Agencies) — U.S. Middle East envoy Richard Murphy flew in from Amman on Saturday for discussions aimed at assessing Arab-Israeli peace prospects.

Mr. Murphy was scheduled to meet President Hosni Mubarak on Sunday. The U.S. assistant secretary of state already has visited Jordan twice and Israel on his tour.

Earlier Saturday, a Jordanian palace spokesman said he met with King Hussein, but there was no word on the substance of the talks.

Mr. Murphy arrived in Jordan on Friday evening after spending a day in Israel, where he met with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Mr. Murphy was scheduled to fly on to Cairo on Saturday afternoon, directly from Israel, but there was no immediate indication why he had come back to Jordan, where he began his tour Tuesday.

Mr. Murphy had said on his first arrival in Amman that he did not expect a breakthrough toward Arab-Israeli peace during his trip, and a Jordanian official, insisting on anonymity, said after Mr. Murphy left that there was nothing new in the envoy's talks in Amman.

After meeting with Shamir, Mr. Murphy told reporters "this was a time for continued quiet diplomacy. This is the continuation of a constant search for peace among our friends in the Middle East."

Sbamir, in turn, repeated Israel's call for direct talks with Jordan.

Jordan rejects such a meeting unless it takes place in an international peace conference.

Upon arrival Mr. Murphy said he would tell President Mubarak that Washington's policy against arms supply to Iran still stands.

Mr. Murphy told airport reporters he would bring up the Iran case with Egyptian officials and said: "The U.S. policy is to discourage arms transfers to Iran and we are pursuing it... I think our action on that speaks louder than any words."

Washington's secret arms sales to Iran was strongly criticised by Mr. Mubarak.

Mr. Murphy went into immediate talks with Foreign Minister Essam Abdul Maguid.

"Our prime aim is to discuss the peace process and find out what contribution the U.S. can make and prospects for further movements," the U.S. envoy said.

Egypt and Israel pledged to make 1987 a year of negotiations for peace and agreed to set up a preparatory committee for an international Middle East peace conference.

MOSCOW (R) — Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev denounced the United States Saturday for failing to respond to a broad array of Soviet arms control initiatives put forward in 1986, proclaimed Year of Peace by the United Nations.

In a message to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Mr. Gorbachev said it was regrettable that 1986 had not resulted in concrete arms accords, although it did succeed in focusing world attention on vital issues of disarmament.

In the message, carried by the Soviet News Agency TASS, Mr. Gorbachev said his proposal of Jan. 15 last year for the total elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2000 had been followed by a long list of practical disarmament initiatives.

These included the extension of Moscow's unilateral nuclear test moratorium, agreement to on-site monitoring of arms control agreements and proposals for conventional and proposals for chemical weapons and the non-militarisation of space.

Mr. Gorbachev said an occasion

Beirut airport reopens after 3-day disruption

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Beirut airport reopened Saturday after traffic was disrupted for three days by shelling that destroyed one airliner and damaged another.

A Middle East Airlines (MEA) plane with 25 passengers left for Amman at 1515 GMT and another landed without passengers from Damascus, airport sources said.

"We have assurances there will be no attacks," MEA Director Selim Salam told Voice of the Homeland radio.

Flights were first halted on Thursday after an MEA Boeing 707 was destroyed by shells. An MEA Boeing 720 with 126 people aboard was sprayed with artillery shrapnel shortly after it landed Friday.

Shelling Friday injured nine people and an airport worker, Beirut Radio said, and Voice of Lebanon radio said shells landed near the presidential palace in Christian east Beirut Saturday, injuring a guard.

The Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia that controls the airport has blamed the Christian Lebanese Forces (LF) militia for the shelling. Opposition sources said the issue was linked to the LF's wish to open their own airport at Halat north of Beirut.

Meanwhile two senior aides of President Amin Gemayel left for Damascus to carry on discussions about a possible Lebanese-Syrian summit.

A third envoy, businessman Hani Salam, Friday began a four-state Gulf tour to back up Mr. Gemayel's attempts to improve relations with Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad.

Ties between the two leaders have been strained since last January when Mr. Gemayel declined to endorse a Damascus-backed peace plan signed by Lebanon's three main militias.

The plan would have diminished the Falangist president's powers in the interests of Lebanon's opposition majority

and enshrined Syria's major role in Lebanese affairs.

Syria has deployed some 25,000 troops in north and east Lebanon since 1976, has several hundred military observers in west Beirut and Lebanon's main Shi'ite Muslim and Druze militias are allied with Damascus.

Meanwhile in Bahrain Mr. Salam Saturday briefed Bahrain's Emir, Sheikh Isa bin Sulman Al Khalifa, on President Gemayel's new bid to seek better relations with Syria.

Lebanese officials said Mr. Salam, a Sunni Muslim businessman, delivered a message from Mr. Gemayel to Sheikh Isa before flying to Kuwait on a similar mission.

Mr. Salam is also due to visit the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

Official sources in Beirut said Friday that Mr. Salam had welcomed help offered recently by Saudi Arabian businessman Rafiq Hariri, also a Sunni of Lebanese origin, in the rapprochement bid.

Mr. Hariri has represented King Fahd in the past.

Falangist and opposition militias duelled with mortars and rockets across Beirut's dividing "green line" Saturday, killing two people and wounding six.

Shells hit the Christian suburbs of Yarz and Hadeth as well as in the predominantly Shi'ite Muslim slums of south Beirut, sending pillars of white smoke billowing in the air.

The threat of exploding shells echoed across the city before a security committee, grouping representatives of the main militias and the Lebanese army, called a ceasefire which took effect at 2 p.m. (1200 GMT).

The committee appealed all factions involved in the fighting to stop shelling the airport, harbour and presidential palace, police said.

The committee also authorised the Civil Aviation Department to reopen the airport at 4 p.m. (1400 GMT), ending a two-day shutdown.

Firebomb thrown at Israeli car in Gaza

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — An Israeli car was firebombed in the centre of occupied Gaza city Saturday and security forces immediately began rounding up suspects, a Palestinian source said.

The military spokesman's office was unable to immediately confirm or deny the report.

The local fire brigade, police and troops rushed to the site of the bombing, put out the fire and made several arrests, said the source who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The source was unable to say how many people were in the car or whether anyone was injured.

Saturday's bombing was the first reported attack of 1987 in Gaza. During December 1986 the army reported 350 demonstrations, clashes and attacks on Israelis in the occupied

West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The report said 300 Palestinians were arrested during that month, four Palestinians were killed and 28 wounded. Twenty-seven Israelis were injured in the clashes.

The report did not give separate figures for Gaza which was occupied by Israel together with the West Bank during the 1967 Middle East war.

Israeli vehicle licence plates are yellow-and-black, while cars from the West Bank and Gaza carry either blue-and-black or silver-and-black number plates.

Palestinian sources also said Israeli authorities Friday arrested five Palestinian students at the University of An Najah in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Israeli army officials said they could not confirm the report.

Gorbachev blames U.S. for failure to reach arms agreement in 1986

to break "the vicious circle of the accelerating arms race" had arisen at his summit with President Reagan in Reykjavik last October.

Although the summit offered a view of fresh horizons, he said, "the hopes that it would lead to practical results did not materialise."

The summit collapsed over a Soviet demand for limits on Mr. Reagan's "Star Wars" programme for a missile defence in space, which Moscow condemns as the main obstacle to arms control.

"Regrettably, our negotiating partners do not show readiness to find across effectively to contain the arms race," Mr. Gorbachev declared.

"Moreover, they are chipping away at and subverting the existing agreements which limit nuclear arsenals, including the SALT-2 treaty, seeking to undermine strategic stability, building up nuclear weapons in excess of ceilings agreed upon earlier and heading for the introduction of weapons in space."

While Moscow had extended its nuclear test moratorium, in effect since Aug. 6, 1985, he added, other countries had continued to upgrade deadly weapons.

Moscow has said it would end its unilateral ban after the first U.S. test of 1987. Washington has refused to join the moratorium on the grounds that tests were needed to maintain its nuclear deterrent and problems of verification remained.

Rejecting claims that the Soviet Union sought to abolish nuclear weapons in order to gain superiority in conventional forces, Mr. Gorbachev pointed to Warsaw Pact proposals last June for deep cuts in conventional forces in Europe by 1990.

"We are prepared to advance in every area towards real measures to limit and stop the arms race," he said, adding that Moscow endorsed strict verification of accords in every field.

But he said this must be reciprocal, and accused those who earlier sought verification of failing to respond positively to the

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Filipino military probes report of Ver's part in arms supply to Iran

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Armed Forces Chief Gen. Fidel Ramos said Saturday he was investigating reports that his predecessor was involved in helping supply U.S. arms to Iran by diverting weapons intended for the Philippines.

Gen. Ramos said the investigation was meant to determine if other officers besides former Chief of Staff Gen. Fabian Ver were involved.

Gen. Ramos made the statements in reply to questions at a news conference called to deny allegations appearing in the local press that he and other military officials were planning a

U.S.-backed coup against President Corason Aquino.

In reports on Thursday and Friday, Manila newspapers quoted unidentified military sources as saying they had records showing that Gen. Ver diverted arms to Iran with the knowledge of "certain American and Israeli officials."

They also said that former President Ferdinand Marcos, who fled to Hawaii with Gen. Ver following last February's "people-power" revolution, had documents linking Gen. Ver to the Iran arms shipments and was trying to use the information as leverage with the administration.

of U.S. President Ronald Reagan in a bid to return to the Philippines.

Friday's newspaper reports said Marcos had told U.S. officials he had documents proving Gen. Ver's involvement even before the report of U.S. arms sales to Iran became public.

Marcos has been living in Hawaii since his ouster and Mrs. Aquino has refused to let him return.

At the news conference, Gen. Ramos called the coup allegations by Partido Ng Bayan (People's Party) a "brazen, bare-faced and

(Continued on page 3)

Pentagon reports 25,000 Iranian casualties in Christmas attack

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Iran suffered an estimated 25,000 casualties in a Christmas Eve offensive against Iraq and appears likely to suffer a similar rebuff in an attack launched Friday, Pentagon sources have said.

The officials, who agreed to discuss recent U.S. intelligence assessments only if not named, offered a dim view of Iranian prospects for military advances in the 6-year-old war.

The Iraqis are conducting their offensives in such a way as to literally "position themselves for extermination," one official asserted.

Moreover, the Pentagon has gathered evidence that Iran for the first time is experiencing difficulty in drawing young men into the Basij militia — the cadre of poorly trained troops used for the human-wave assaults that precede its offensive attacks.

The Defence Department's latest assessment of the Iran-Iraq war came as Iran announced its forces had stormed across the Shatt Al Arab waterway in a two-pronged offensive against Iraq. The Iraqis claimed to have pushed 2.3 miles into southern Iraq, killing 5,000 Iraqis.

Iraq responded that the Iraqis had already been chased out of the most of the positions they had overrun.

While the Pentagon officials offered no independent assessment of those claims on Friday, they did agree to discuss a similar attack in the same area of the Shatt Al Arab waterway on Dec. 24 and 25.

In that fighting, said one official, the Iraqis suffered an estimated 25,000 casualties, including up to 15,000 dead. While a precise estimate of Iraqi losses was not available, it was certainly not even one-third of the Iranian number, the official said.

The reports Friday indicate "a very similar" attack to that conducted in December, said one source, "and it is likely to have the same outcome."

"You should not think that because the Iraqis succeeded in getting a foothold on the south

shore of the river that that is an indicator of success," he said.

"In fact, what they are doing is positioning themselves for extermination, because they get themselves in an extremely unsupportable position with not much in the way of artillery fire, heavy vehicles and air (power) to back them up."

"Then they're nicely positioned for a massive application of Iraqi air, helicopter gunships, followed up by lots of armour. They're just no light (lightly armed) to do much."

The vast majority of the casualties being suffered by Iran can be attributed to murderous Iraqi artillery fire, the sources said. The Iraqis overrun Iraqi outposts, only to then be targeted by artillery kept farther behind the lines.

While there is some evidence the Iraqis carried anti-tank missiles with them across the Shatt Al Arab waterway last month, the missiles have had little effect on the outcome of the fighting, the Pentagon officials said.

"Everything now appears to favour Iraq and at least keep things stalemated," one official said.

"They (the Iraqis) are defending their territory, they hold an overwhelming edge in tanks, artillery and air power, and their active deployed forces now appear to number some one million compared to about 600,000 for Iran."

Pentagon analysts said intelligence reports indicated that fewer than half of the 600,000 Iranian troops were elite fighting men drawn from the army under the former Shah, that some 200,000 were Revolutionary Guards, and that another 100,000 were poorly trained recruits.

During last month's unsuccessful Iranian assault across the Shatt Al Arab, thousands of recruits and Revolutionary Guards died and the regular army units never got to the front before the attack bogged down, Pentagon officials said.

"They often commit the Basij — who are recruited off the street by the Mullahs and given very minimal training — to the initial wave in a battle," said one official.

"Behind the Basij come the Revolutionary Guards. The regulars are often the last forces committed to the fight."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Portugal closes embassy in west Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Portugal has closed its embassy in mainly Muslim west Beirut for security reasons, Lebanese Foreign Ministry sources said Saturday. They said Ambassador Luis Gonzaga Ferreira left Beirut for home a few days ago. Portugal was among four Western countries still operating in west Beirut. Most others closed or moved to the Christian eastern sector following attacks against embassies and foreign nationals over the past three years. The pro-Syrian Ash Sharq newspaper reported that the Portuguese move was to protest against the failure of Lebanon's ambassador-designate to Portugal to present his credentials. It said Ghazi Chidiac, ambassador to the Vatican, had not presented his credentials 18 months after his appointment as non-resident envoy to Lisbon. The Foreign Ministry sources denied there were any political motives, insisting the Portuguese closure was for security reasons.

Al Ahram to start American edition

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's 111-year-old newspaper Al Ahram will start printing a North American edition in New York later this month, executives said Saturday. Al Ahram started an international edition in London in 1984 but has not been able to get it to subscribers in the United States and Canada on the day of issue. The daily, which usually reflects official Egyptian policy, currently has some 600 subscribers in North America. It plans a print of 5,000 copies in the first phase of the new venture, starting Jan. 19. The paper will sell for one U.S. dollar. It has an estimated two million Arab or citizens of Arab descent in the United States and Canada as potential readers, the executives told Reuters. The Cairo, London and New York editions will be printed simultaneously via satellite links, they said.

Group threatens Kuwaiti leader

BEIRUT (R) — An underground group has threatened a senior Kuwaiti official following conviction of four Arabs for their role in bombing two seafaring cafes in Kuwait in July, 1985. The "Arab Revolutionary Brigades" which originally claimed responsibility for the bombings, made the threat in a statement published in Beirut Saturday by an Nahar newspaper. The brigades said Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, Kuwait's deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, was behind the sentences handed down on Wednesday and "he will be held responsible for all the results."

North reportedly urged cruise attack

NEW YORK (R) — Fired presidential aide Lt.-Col. Oliver North argued for shooting a cruise missile at an alleged terrorist nerve centre in Damascus during the hijack of a TWA plane in 1985, a U.S. television network has reported. CBS News said Reagan administration sources told its Pentagon correspondent that during the TWA hijack a small group including Col. North argued for the cruise missile attack on the alleged terrorist nerve centre in the Syrian capital. Col. North's plan was reportedly rejected by then National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane, it said, but gave no further details. Shi'ite gunmen hijacked the TWA plane on June 14, 1985, during a flight from Athens to Rome. They shot dead a U.S. navy diver, Robert Stethem, and held 39 others hostage aboard the plane in Beirut for two weeks.

Soldiers unseal Palestinian homes

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli troops have unsealed rooms they blocked up a day earlier after learning that the supreme court had issued a restraining order barring the action, Israel Radio reported. The soldiers cemented shut four rooms in the homes of three Palestinians convicted of a series of attacks on Israeli targets including the firebombing of a Jerusalem passenger bus last year in which 10 people were wounded. The Palestinians live in the Palestinian refugee camp of Shuafat, near Jerusalem.

Aden aide to visit Oman today

BAHRAIN (R) — South Yemen's Foreign Minister Abdul Aziz Al Dali will begin a four-day official visit to Oman Sunday, his first since last January's fighting in Aden which toppled the government of President Ali Nasser Mohammed. The official Oman News Agency, reporting the visit, said Mr. Dali would hold talks with his Omani counterpart Youssef Ibn Alawi, who was in Aden in July. Oman and South Yemen have been seeking to normalise relations after 15 years of hostility over Aden's past support for Omani rebels, and have yet to reach agreement on their disputed border.

Scot jailed in U.S. for selling equipment to Libya

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A Scottish businessman accused of channelling U.S. oil field equipment to Libya was jailed Friday when he said he could not produce the \$300,000 cash bail ordered by a U.S. magistrate Ronald Fonseca.

Francis George Christie, 50, of Aberdeen, Scotland, was one of three people arrested in New Orleans Thursday in connection with the shipping of equipment to Libya in violation of a Feb. 1, 1986, embargo ordered by President Ronald Reagan.

A Louisiana couple, Cheryl Ann Smith and George L. Smith, were released on bond of \$5,000 and \$10,000 respectively, according to Assistant U.S. Attorney Philip Halpern.

Patrick Fanning, defence lawyer for the three, said Christie's bond was excessive and disputed Halpern's arguments that Christie was likely to flee to Scotland if he was freed before trial.

Fanning also discounted prosecution arguments that violation of Mr. Reagan's embargo was so serious as to warrant extensive prison time if Christie is found guilty. He noted the current controversy over the Reagan administration's sale of \$30 million worth of arms to Iran.

Although arrests were made in New Orleans, near the home of the Smith's Oil Patch Production Services Inc. in the suburb of Gretna, the Smiths and Christie face trial in San Diego, where the investigation began.

A U.S. Customs Service agent said he went undercover and contacted the Smiths, and later Christie, after the Smiths contacted Solar Turbines Inc. of San Diego about possible equipment sales to Libya.

Fanning, after the hearing, said the Smiths did indeed contact Solar, but that Solar told them that sales to Libya would be illegal. He said the Smiths were willing to drop the matter then.

But, Fanning continued, Solar then told customs, about the contact and customs began the undercover investigation in order to entice the Smiths and their European business contact, Christie, to do something illegal.

During the investigation, customs allowed about \$250,000 worth of equipment to go to Libya, according to special agent Dan Supnick.

Fanning, contending that the three defendants were entrapped, noted in court that sales to Libya are not illegal in the United Kingdom. He said that Christie would never have been subject to arrest had he not come to this country to conduct his business.

Halpern said authorities believe Christie has been involved in the shipment of millions of dollars worth of equipment to Libya.

There have also been allegations that the money was channelled through agency bank accounts.

"Inaccurate reports in the media based on selective leaks have misrepresented what Director Casey and Deputy Director Gates knew about a possible diversion of Iranian funds to the Contras and when they knew it," the agency said in its first formal statement on the affair.

"It is time for the agency to set the record straight publicly."

"Director Casey testified under oath before four congressional committees that he did not learn that money may have been diverted to the Contras until the White House so informed him just before Attorney General (Edwin) Meese held his press conference on Nov. 25," the agency said.

"Mr. Meese first publicly disclosed the secret arms deal that day at a White House news conference."

"In their sworn testimony in December, Director Casey and Deputy Director Gates also made a full disclosure to Congress about speculation that had reached them in October concerning a possible diversion of funds and what they have done about that information," the agency said.

"No credible evidence of a diversion of monies ever came to the attention of the agency," it said.

"Most importantly, there is no indication whatsoever that the CIA was involved in any diversion of funds, that the CIA misused its funds or violated any law."

Israeli leaders warn they may step up involvement in Lebanon

By Masha Hamilton
Associated Press

TEL AVIV — A year and a half after Israeli troops left Lebanon following the most unpopular war in Israel's history, government leaders are warning Israel may again be on the brink of deeper military involvement in Lebanon.

The warnings come after two Israeli air raids in South Lebanon this week, a surge of attacks against a small Israeli-supported Lebanese militia and the growing presence of Palestinian fighters who were blamed by Israel for the rockets fired into northern Israel on Wednesday.

But renewed Israeli entanglement in Lebanon is likely to meet strong resistance within Israel, where hundreds of thousands protested the three-year Lebanon war in which 654 Israeli soldiers were killed.

Thirteen members of the Israeli-allied South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia were killed this week. The deaths brought to more than 100 the number of militiamen killed since Israel set up its "security zone" in South Lebanon just before pulling out most of its soldiers in June 1985.

Israel, which still keeps about 1,000 soldiers in South Lebanon, has blamed the Iranian-backed Shi'ite Muslim Hezbollah fighters for the attacks on the mostly Falangist South Lebanon Army. Hezbollah bases were targeted in an Israeli air raid on Jan. 4 in which three people were killed.

On Friday, Israeli planes bombed Palestinian commando positions at Maghdousheh near

Sidon, about 48 kilometres north of the Israeli border.

"Elements that provoke us and step up their terrorist activity will be punished," Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir warned on Israel television.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin also told reporters after touring South Lebanon that the attacks against the SLA militia "necessitate a stepping-up of activity in various security spheres."

Neither Shamir nor Rabin was specific about how Israel might respond to the Shi'ite attacks.

Four months ago, when the SLA was hit by a similar series of attacks, Israel massed troops along its northern border in a show of support and sent several hundred extra Israeli soldiers briefly into South Lebanon.

Attacks on the SLA have severely demoralised the 1,500-member force. Israeli military sources say that in the last four months, 250 militiamen have quit the force which patrols a 10-to-16 kilometre strip north of the Israeli border.

"Inherent in the new situation is the danger of creeping Israeli re-involvement in southern Lebanon," said military analyst Hersh Goodman, writing in the Jerusalem Post. "If the Shi'ites maintain or intensify their campaign against the South Lebanon Army, Israel will have to respond along a broader front."

But Israeli newspapers have editorialised against sending more soldiers into Lebanon. "This is a poor option," the daily Maariv newspaper said. It called on the

Israeli army to make sure its operations in Lebanon were "intelligent and limited."

Rabin said Israel had been reluctant to target Hezbollah bases because of a two-year-old American request. He said the United States asked Israel not to attack Hezbollah guerrillas because they were believed to be holding some of the six Americans missing after being kidnapped.

A second problem for Israel is posed by the resurgence of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) forces in South Lebanon.

Israeli military sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, say about 3,000 Palestinian fighters are now based in South Lebanon, a severe disappointment to Israel, which launched its 1982 invasion to rout the PLO from Lebanon for good.

Entrenchment of the PLO fighters has for the moment prevented by the Shi'ite Amal militia which has been fighting Palestinians. But the PLO is being helped by Israel's former allies, the Falangists of Beirut.

Israeli military officials say the Falangists are permitting the Palestinians to enter Lebanon by the port of Jounieh just north of Christian east Beirut. Shamir, apparently referring to the Falangists, said PLO fighters are being allowed into Lebanon "through bribery of various elements."

Israel has sought to block the arrival of Palestinians at Jounieh by monitoring all maritime traffic into the port and stopping ships which it believes are carrying PLO commandos.

Beirut hostage appeals to France

BEIRUT (R) — A French diplomat held hostage by Islamic Jihad said in a letter to his wife that captivity was a barely endurable nightmare. He appealed to France to meet the underground groups' demands.

"Why does the government use loop-holes when it knows perfectly the conditions of the captors ... we will not be freed unless all the demands are met," Marcel Fontaine said in the letter delivered to an international news agency Friday night.

Islamic Jihad (holy war) also holds another French diplomat, Marcel Carton, a French journalist, Jean-Paul Kauffmann and two Americans.

"France must have more independent, moderate, balanced and less partisan policies," Fontaine said in his letter, adding that his 21-month ordeal was a "nightmare ... we can hardly endure it."

For the French hostages' freedom, Islamic Jihad has demanded the release of 17 men jailed in Kuwait for political violence and an end to French financial and military support for Iraq.

The letter was addressed to Fontaine's wife Elaine, who left Beirut three days ago after a week-long series of visits to Muslim leaders with her 18-year-old son Erick. She carried a secret message for the French government.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 — Koran
15:45 — Programme review
15:55 — Health Clinic
16:20 — A Whole World of Children
17:00 — Rikking It All
17:30 — Candid Camera
18:00 — Local Agricultural programme
18:30 — Arabic series
19:20 — Local programme
19:50 — Programme review
20:00 — News in Arabic
20:25 — Arabic series
21:30 — Local programme
21:55 — Tomorrow's programme
22:00 — TV Magazine (local)
22:40 — News summary in Arabic
23:10 — News in English
23:20 — Murder, She Wrote
00:10 — Close down

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 — Les 5 dernières
19:00 — News in French
19:15 — La Vallée des prophètes
19:30 — News in Hebrew
19:45 — Varieties
20:00 — News in Arabic
20:30 — Who's the Boss
21:10 — The Story of O.E.
22:00 — News in English
22:20 — Murder, She Wrote

RADIO JORDAN

885 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 95.60 KHz, SW
Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

07:30 — Light Music
07:30 — News
08:00 — Morning Show
10:00 — News Summary
10:05 — Pop Session
11:00 — In Concert
12:00 — News Summary
12:05 — Pop Session Cont.
13:00 — News Summary
13:05 — Pop Session Cont.
14:00 — News Bulletin
14:10 — Instruments
14:15 — Science Report
15:00 — Concert Hour
16:00 — News Summary
16:05 — Instruments
16:30 — Old Favorites
17:00 — Listener's Choice
18:00 — News Summary
18:05 — Jazz Hour
19:00 — News
19:30 — Date with a Star
20:00 — Evening Show
21:00 — News Summary
21:05 — Evening Show Cont.
21:55 — News Summary

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1323 KHz

PROGRAMME ONE

06:00 — News
06:05 — Reflections
06:30 — World News
07:00 — 24 Hours News Summary
07:30 — Patricia Kennedy's Music Box
07:45 — Letter from America
08:00 — News
08:30 — Jazz for the Aspiring
09:00 — World News Summary
09:30 — From Our Own Correspondent
09:50 — Local programme
10:00 — News
10:05 — Reflections
10:15 — The Pleasure's Yours
11:00 — World News
11:30 — British Press Review
11:45 — Science in Action
11:45 — A Letter for the Past
12:00 — News
12:05 — Sunday Special
12:15 — Classical Record Review
12:30 — Religious Service
13:00 — World News
13:15 — From Our Own Correspondent
13:30 — Play: Runyon's Bread and Butter
15:00 — News Summary
15:30 — Sports Round-up
15:45 — The Saudi News
16:00 — Request Show
16:30 — Play: Runyon's Bread and Butter
17:00 — News Summary
17:30 — The Story of O.E.
17:45 — Concert Hall
18:00 — News
18:05 — Commentary
18:15 — Pestilence — the Easy Way Out
18:45 — Letter from America
19:00 — World News
19:05 — Reflections
19:15 — Medley
19:45 — Sports Round-up
20:00 — News
20:30 — Just a Minute
21:00 — News Summary
21:05 — Classical Record Review
21:15 — The Pleasure's Yours
21:30 — World News
21:35 — Choir
22:00 — World News

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1260, KHz; 7200, 9565, 1174, 11925 & 15210

PROGRAMME ONE

05:00 — News
05:05 — VOA Morning 05:00 News Summary
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Crown Prince highlights importance of dialogue, exchange at all levels

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Saturday underlined the importance of dialogue between youth forums and clubs at the Arab and international levels and also stressed the role of Islamic-Christian dialogues in finding sound formulae with which to resolve world issues.

Prince Hassan was speaking at a meeting of the Arab Thought Forum's (ATF) board of trustees which comprises 17 members and

which is chaired by Prince Hassan. The Crown Prince said that the ATF does not believe in monopolising thoughts and ideas, and for this reason it strives to maintain close cooperation with other Arab research centres to coordinate work and activity designed to deal with challenges confronting the Arab nation.

Prince Hassan expressed hope that a special task force led by former Lebanese Prime Minister Dr. Salim Al Hoss would be able

to draw up proper solutions to guarantee such cooperation in the best possible manner. He said that the ATF aims at bridging the gap between intellectuals and decision-makers in the Arab World with a view to reaching the best and most effective resolutions.

Symposium on Arab debts begins today

Prince Hassan will today patronise an ATF symposium to review alternative policies for dealing with Arab countries' foreign debts. Finance Minister Hanna Odeh and Minister of Planning Taher Al Kanaan are among 40 participants invited to take part in the two-day symposium.

The participants will discuss four working papers dealing with the Arab World's foreign debts, the United Nations attitude with regard to such debts, means of protecting Arab investments and the flight of Arab capital to other countries.

The symposium is in implementation of recommendations taken by the Arab Thought Forum at its meeting in Amman during April of last year.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Saturday meets with trustees of the Arab Thought Forum (Petra photo)

Health ministers approve plans for Arab hospital in Jerusalem

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Health Ministers Council has approved plans to build a hospital in Arab Jerusalem and the council decided to form a special delegation which will submit the subject of the hospital to Arab and Islamic heads of state who are due to meet in Kuwait on Jan. 26. Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh said on Saturday.

The \$15 million project is bound to offer improved health services to Arab citizens in the occupied Arab territories, the minister continued.

Dr. Hamzeh was speaking upon returning to Amman from Baghdad where he attended the

council's 50th meeting, which opened on Jan. 8. Dr. Hamzeh also said the committee comprises the health ministers of Jordan, Kuwait and Morocco.

During the two-day meeting, the council discussed the general health conditions in the Israeli-held Arab territory and means of improving conditions there, the minister said.

In addition to the occupied territories, the health ministers council discussed health conditions in Lebanon and the establishment of a medical centre in Beirut to supervise health and medical assistance to the

Lebanese people, according to Dr. Hamzeh.

He said that the council approved a pan-Arab plan for cooperation in health affairs, including means of facilitating the flow of medical supplies to Arab countries hit by natural disasters and the manufacturing and marketing of Arab pharmaceutical products, in addition to the Arabisation of medical teaching at Arab universities.

The council, which groups the ministers of Kuwait, Iraq, Bahrain, Tunisia and Jordan, decided to hold its next meeting in Khartoum during March.

Economic, medical views at odds over campaign to raise egg consumption

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A controversy has surfaced over the viability of a projected campaign to increase the domestic per capita consumption of table eggs with differing viewpoints from both the medical and economic sides. The medical point of view insists that the average individual should consume no more than two eggs per week which conflicts with a declared public awareness campaign to raise the domestic per capita consumption of eggs from 135 per annum, the lowest rate in the world, to 170 a year or three per week.

The idea for raising the domestic consumption was prompted by the fact that the local market has been and still is awash with accumulated egg surpluses, a situation aggravated by shrinking export outlets.

Last year, the Jordan Society for the Production and Marketing of Eggs (JSPME) sustained heavy losses as a result of a bottle-neck in the supply and demand process. The JSPME stepped in at that time and reduced the prices to prevent a surplus of approximately 500 million eggs from being spoiled. Lowering the prices reflected negatively on the profitability of the society's 140 egg farms but did manage to salvage the bulk of the

egg surplus.

A dietician's view

In an interview with the Jordan Times, dietician Suha Khalaf explained that the overall intake of cholesterol by the human body should be in the region of 250 milligrammes per day. Taking into account the fact that the human body generates a certain amount of cholesterol on a daily basis, medical research centres recommended that an average individual consumes no more than one egg per day which contains 255 milligrammes of cholesterol, Dr. Khalaf said.

However, and as a safety factor, Dr. Khalaf said that the medically recognised safety level for egg-consumption should be no more than two eggs per week. Cholesterol, the vital, yellowish substance whose level is directly affected by the richness of the diet, is widely held responsible for cardiovascular diseases when consumed in large quantities. Lowering cholesterol intake markedly reduces the incidence of fatal heart attacks, according to medical research.

Breakdown of an egg

Apart from cholesterol, which is concentrated in the yolk, an average 50 gramme egg contains 75 per cent water, 80 calories, 6 grammes of protein, 6 grammes of

fat — both saturated and unsaturated, 27 grammes of carbohydrates and 1.1 milligramme of calcium. An average egg also contains 5.9 international units of Vitamin A, 0.5 milligrammes of Vitamin B1, 0.5 milligrammes of Vitamin B2 and a trace of Vitamin B3, according to medical reports.

The public awareness campaign, launched by the JSPME, includes illustrated advertisements in the press highlighting the nutritious benefits of eggs but the notices do not point out the level of cholesterol in an egg.

JSPME Director General Samir Habashneh contended that recent medical research found no link whatsoever "in the ratio between cholesterol in eggs compared to that in any other fat and protein commodity."

Mr. Habashneh went further and said that an American researcher recently recommended that it would be healthier if an average individual ate three eggs per day and reduced meat consumption.

The annual per capita consumption of eggs in Iraq is 240, in Saudi Arabia 300 whilst the per capita consumption in the U.S. and the Soviet Union are in the region of 400 eggs per annum. Mr. Habashneh noted, pointing out that Jordan's consumption was well below these levels.

Ministry of Youth issues report on services provided for students abroad

AMMAN (Petra) — Last year, Ministry of Youth has offered a variety of services to approximately 1,600 Jordanian students and expatriates dotted in 43 countries around the world and has also provided a large number of Jordanian youth clubs and groups abroad with information and assistance as part of the ministry's efforts to maintain contacts between Jordanian youths abroad and their homeland, according to an annual report issued by the Ministry of Youth section for Jordanian youth affairs abroad.

The section's head, Mr. Ibrahim Qasbiat, said that the section also received a total of 3,185 letters from Jordanian youths abroad containing various questions and queries about different issues. The section, he continued, also sent 10,295 parcels last year to youths abroad containing daily and weekly Arabic and English papers in addition to Jordanian magazines and bulletins. The section also dispatched decisions and recommendations issued by

several conferences and seminars held in the country with the aim of keeping the youth abroad informed about various activities which take place in Jordan. The section also sends Jordanian papers and bulletins to 14 Jordanian embassies abroad and this material is then distributed to Jordanian youths in the country. The embassies involved are in Athens, Paris, Madrid, Bucharest, Moscow, Ankara, Rome, Belgrade, Rabat, Kuwait, Cairo, Bonn, Islamabad and Washington.

Mr. Qasbiat added that the section has also provided financial

aid and books to a number of Jordanian youth groups abroad.

Last year, the section organised several photographic exhibitions in cooperation with Jordanian individuals and groups to highlight Jordan's cultural, touristic and archaeological sites and attractions abroad.

The section for Jordanian youths living abroad was established at the ministry at the beginning of 1985 with the aim of keeping up contacts between Jordanian youths abroad and their country and acquainting them with the various activities, news and events related to Jordan.

Agriculture Ministry prepares for Arbor Day celebrations

AMMAN (Petra) — An Arbor Day ceremony will be held at the Queen Abla International Airport on Thursday under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein. A total of 5,000 olive tree saplings, 2,000 palm tree saplings and 2,000 cypress trees will be planted

on the occasion at the site.

Other ceremonies will be held in different parts of the Kingdom and millions of trees will be planted by students, government departments and members of the public.



Royal Scientific Society President Jawad Al Anani (left) Saturday briefs Her Majesty Queen Noor on the various departments of the society during a visit to the RSS by Queen Noor (Petra photo)

Queen Noor visits RSS

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor on Saturday visited the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and was briefed by officials on the function and services provided by the society's different sections.

Upon her arrival, the Queen was met by RSS President Jawad Al Anani as well as the directors of different departments at the society.

Queen Noor called at the departments of mechanical engineering, computer sciences, solar energy, the chemical

industry section, the Building Research Centre and the training unit. The Queen was briefed by directors of these sections on their activities and research work.

Dr. Anani spoke about the RSS's services to the public and its role in contributing towards Jordan's development projects.

Her Majesty was accompanied on her tour by the wife of Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai and the director general of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, Mrs. In'am Al Mufti.

Majali to detail new road safety measures today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Public Security Department (PSD) Director Abdul Hadi Al Majali will today hold a press conference on road accidents in the Kingdom. Lt. Gen. Majali is expected to detail procedures and measures being taken by the Public Security Department to reducing the number of road accidents in the country.

The PSD recently announced that all vehicles should be equipped with safety belts and that all motorists would be required by law to use them while driving along motorways with 60 kilometre speed limits or above. Brigadier Ahmad Abdul Saud, PSD assistant director for traffic

affairs, announced at a press conference on Dec. 31 that enforcement of the use of the belts on these roads would take effect in January 1987. He said that a month-long awareness campaign would be held in January to bring to the attention of the public the importance of seat belts and the penalties which will be imposed on those violating the regulations.

The traffic law concerning seat belts will be technically enforced in Jordan at the beginning of February 1987, according to Brig. Abdul Saud, who said that front seat passengers and motorists found not using seat belts would be fined between JD 5 and JD 15.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Special forces begin 6-week drill

AMMAN (Petra) — A six-week training course for special forces of the Public Security Department (PSD) opened in Amman on Saturday. The 41 participants will receive training exercises, physical fitness and target shooting drills of different kinds. The course was opened by PSD Director Abdul Hadi Al Majali who made a speech on the occasion. The opening of the course was attended by Major General Issa Al Omari, PSD assistant director, and several high ranking officers.

Lawzi receives Soviet ambassador

AMMAN (Petra) — Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi on Saturday received Soviet Ambassador in Amman Alexander Zinichuk. Talks during the meeting focused on fields of cooperation between the two countries, especially in parliamentary affairs.

Bank organises course for Irbid branch

IRBID (Petra) — A training course for Housing Bank employees in Irbid Governorate opened here Saturday. Participants in the 10-day course will be oriented on modern trends in administration and organisational procedures to improve the skill and the efficiency of the bank's staff.

Researcher to lecture on amulets

AMMAN (J.T.) — On Jan. 12 at 7:00, the Goethe Institute in cooperation with the Yarmouk University Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, will present an illustrated lecture by Dr. Birgit Mershen on Arab jewelry and amulets from Jordan. Dr. Mershen obtained her Ph.D. in Islamic studies and Islamic philology from Johannes-Gutenberg University in Mainz. Since 1984 she has been an assistant professor at Yarmouk University, and in 1985 she began conducting ethnographic field research in northern Jordan.

Jordan to attend talks on refugees

TUNIS (Petra) — Jordan will take part in a meeting of Arab countries hosting refugees, due to open on Monday at the Arab League headquarters in Tunis. The meeting will discuss developments in the Palestine issue, the general conditions in the occupied Arab territory and services offered to Palestine refugees by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). Also on the agenda are Israel's attempts to infiltrate Africa and the Israeli occupation authorities' inhuman treatment of Palestinian people as well as Israel's settlement policies.

Jordan, Sudan sign trade agreement

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Sudan have signed a trade exchange agreement for a minimum of \$40 million, according to a report published Saturday in the local Arabic daily newspaper Al Dustour. About 200 Jordanian products and goods are included in the agreement exchanged for various Sudanese products. A Sudanese trade delegation is due in Amman in mid-February to implement this agreement, the report said.

Fewer companies registered in 1986

AMMAN (J.T.) — The number of companies registered at the Ministry of Industry and Trade during the first half of 1986 reached 1,197 with a total capital of JD 26.9 million, down from 1,136 companies with a total capital of JD 18.9 million registered during the same period of 1985, according to a report in the monthly local magazine Al Bina. The report added that the registered capital increased 40 per cent during the second half of 1986, compared to the same period in 1985. The number of various corporations licensed during the first half of 1986 was 981, of which 649 were trading corporations, 11 agricultural corporations and 124 contracting and 197 industrial corporations.

Greater Amman council holds first meeting

Mayor outlines responsibilities of new authority and comprehensive plan for services in the capital

AMMAN (J.T.) — Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh said Saturday that Amman Municipality, like the majority of local municipal and village councils in Jordan, is facing the problem of a lack of funds required for upgrading public services and because of limited finances, all efforts should be exerted to control expenditure and improve productivity.

The mayor said that it is not feasible to increase municipal taxes and fees and as a result the sums collected are continually shrinking while the municipality's burdens and responsibilities continue to grow.

Addressing the first meeting of the 51-member council for the Greater Amman area, Mr. Rawabdeh said that the Amman municipal council has contracted an international consultative firm to help draw up a comprehensive plan for the development of the Greater Amman region from now until the year 2005 and that the municipal council will implement the plan to improve public services.

The plan, expected to be completed in six months' time, is being prepared under the supervision of a technical committee chaired by the mayor and operating under the guidance of Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai. Mr. Rawabdeh pointed out.

The mayor went on to say that it is the right of every citizen in the Greater Amman area to obtain services from the nearest municipal centre to his home and for this reason members of the public should not have to refer to the Amman municipal council at the Amman Municipality if they wish to submit a complaint about services or to make requests for them.

This measure has been deemed necessary to facilitate work and to alleviate the burden of work from the municipality in Amman, Mr. Rawabdeh continued. The municipality, he added, will distribute and supervise services to all regions of the Greater Amman region through various committees and these committees will also have to submit reports on the situation and types of services offered to each district under their jurisdiction, Mr. Rawabdeh added.

Committee on mineral wealth to meet today

AMMAN (Petra) — The government has set up a higher committee on chemical industries, and under the chairmanship of Minister of Industry and Trade Rajai Muasher it will look into the prospects of maximising the exploitation of the Kingdom's vast chemical mineral wealth, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib announced here on Saturday.

The minister said that the committee, which will hold its first meeting on Sunday, is scheduled to investigate the measures which could be taken to promote the employment of minerals — such as phosphates, potash and cement — in the domestic industry sector.

The minister, who was addressing the opening session of a two-day symposium organised by the Jordanian Chemicals Society (JCS), said that Jordan is rich in chemical wealth and that these resources are predominantly found in the mineral salts of the Dead Sea. However, Dr. Khatib noted that only potash is being exploited at present, Jordan can, and should, develop the exploitation of a wide range of minerals and their by-products, notably potassium bromides, manganese, calcium and sodium and other elements found in and around the Dead Sea area in the Jordan Valley region, the minister continued.

The minister said that the JCS and other similar scientific societies in Jordan could help spread knowledge about such wealth.

Participants in the two-day symposium will discuss, among other subjects, the employment of laser beams in the treatment of eye ailments, the treatment of wastewater from power stations, processing soil used for growing in-door plants, geological issues including earth tremors, analysing antibiotic medications and the hazards of employing chemicals in analysing potable water.

Working papers discussed during the first session were presented by the University of Jordan, the Royal Medical Services, Yarmouk University, the Arab Potash Company and the Royal Scientific Society.

He said the committees should hold periodic meetings with representatives of different regions and towns around the capital to determine their needs of services and their views.

Council elects deputy mayor, committee members

The council later elected Mr. Ismail Armouty as deputy mayor of Amman and he voiced his appreciation for the confidence entrusted in him and pledged to do his best to serve the capital.

Later, the council elected heads and members of 11 committees which will be in charge of the organisation of cities and villages, buildings, purchases, public works, development, planning, finance, appropriation, personnel, numbering of streets, health, cultural, social and legal committees and one in charge of greening the land around the capital.

The council also elected heads and members of sub-district committees which will be dealing directly with districts and their inhabitants and will be in charge of the Amman Metropolitan region,

as well as the towns of Thaq, Jubeiha, Wadi Seer, Sweileh, Tla'a Al Ali, Umm Al Summaq, Qweismeh, Jweideh, Abu Alanda, Khreihet Al Souq, Jawa, Yadoudah, Shafa Badran, Umm Quseir, Al Muqablain and Bader. The council decided that the committees should hold monthly meetings to discuss the progress of work.

The council also decided to draw up a contract with the Jordan Electric Power Company (JEPCO) to collect fees for garbage collection along with electricity bills for a period of one year on an experimental basis.

The 51-member council of Greater Amman, formed in the past week, includes present and former senior government officials, heads of municipalities and villages, notables and private citizens in the Greater Amman region.

Heads of the municipalities which have now been incorporated in the new council opposed the formation of the joint body on the grounds that a unified council would deplete their municipalities' revenues, lower the quality of public services and prolong the time for carrying out projects.

The formation of the new council was hailed by a number of notables and prominent business figures in Amman who said that the council's work will be decentralised and therefore would be carried out promptly and without as much red tape.



Members of the newly-formed Greater Amman council hold their first meeting on Saturday under the chairmanship of Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh (Petra photo)

Iraq gains upper hand

(Continued from page 1)

He said Iraq lost one aircraft Friday but all other planes returned safely to base after destructive raids on Iranian troops and communication lines.

Iraq on Friday night criticised the Security Council and the U.N. Secretariat for remaining silent in face of Iran's latest cross-border assault in the six-year-old Gulf war.

A press statement issued by the Iraqi U.N. mission said: "The passive position of the Security Council and the secretariat can only facilitate and encourage Iranian aggression and thereby

Iranian violation of international law and the United Nations Charter itself."

The statement called on both U.N. organs to "adopt a clear-cut position versus the Iranian aggression."

In Tehran, an Iranian military communique claimed an Iraqi surface-to-surface missile hit a school at Borujerd, south-west of Tehran Saturday killing or wounding at least 80 students.

Iranian News Agency IRNA said Borujerd, 270 kilometres from Tehran, was one of several centres bombed in Iraqi attacks Saturday.

Gorbachev criticises U.S.

(Continued from page 1)

new Soviet position in favour of on-site inspection.

Mr. Gorbachev said the Soviet Union had strongly backed proposals for nuclear-free zones in the Balkans, Northern Europe and the Soviet Pacific and had supported constructive ideas for

reducing tension in trouble spots around the world.

He said the Soviet Union was seeking "an immediate settlement" of the Afghanistan crisis which would provide guarantees for an end to outside interference and expedite a Soviet troop withdrawal.

Manila probes Iran arms deal

(Continued from page 1)

desperate" attempt by the left to discredit the armed forces and his leadership.

Meanwhile Defence Minister Rafael Ilto has proposed reducing the 'Philippines' 250,000-strong armed forces provided the Communist rebels do the same, his ministry said Saturday.

A news release said Ilto made the proposal in an effort to save peace talks between the government and the Communist-dominated National Democratic Front (NDF) before a 60-day ceasefire runs out on Feb. 8.

The talks began formally last Tuesday but were adjourned until next week after the two sides failed to agree on an agenda.

Meanwhile, rebel, military, religious and government leaders in eight provinces of the southern island of Mindanao announced an agreement to continue negotiations there, even if the peace talks collapse at the national level.

The announcement came at a conference in the Mindanao city of Cagayan de Oro where national NDF chief negotiator Satur Ocampo accused the government of stalling the negotiations. He

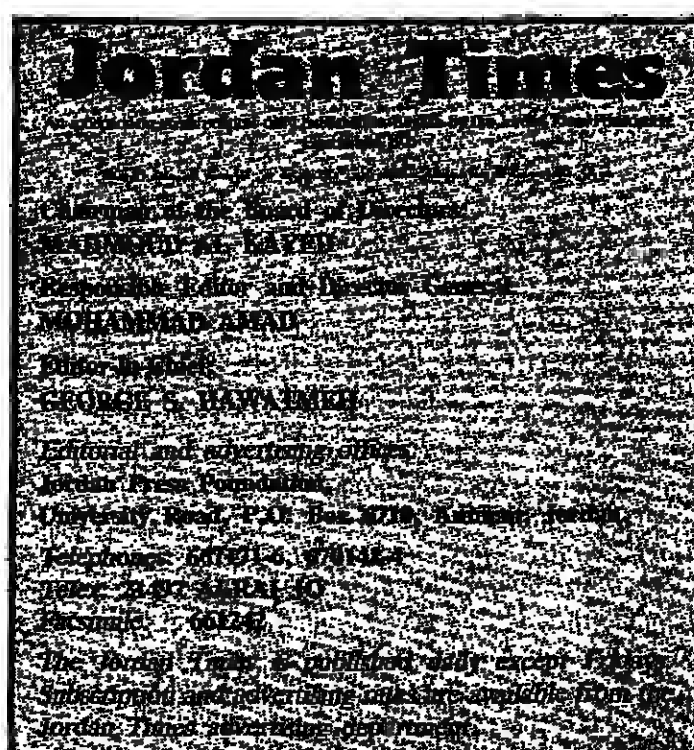
warned of a possible resumption of the fighting if the talks fail.

President Aquino resumed her campaign for ratification of a proposed new constitution Saturday, distributing land titles to peasants and promising more funds for rural development.

Mrs. Aquino told a rally attended by about 5,000 people that she also would decide on the date for local elections at next week's cabinet meeting. But she reminded the crowd that balloting would be possible only if the draft constitution is ratified in the Feb. 2 plebiscite.

Ratification of the constitution "will strengthen our democracy so that the days of oppression in the past will not return," she told the crowd, which included officials from five provinces in a region once a stronghold of deposed President Ferdinand Marcos.

Santiago was the first stop in Mrs. Aquino's swing Saturday through northern Luzon to urge voters to ratify the charter. She started the campaign last weekend in southern Luzon's Bicol region. From Santiago, 240 kilometres north-east of Manila, Mrs. Aquino travelled by helicopter to Pangasinan province on the South China Sea coast of Luzon where she addressed similar rallies in the towns of Lingayen and Urdaneta.



Indebtedness examined

A two-day symposium on "Arab countries' foreign debts, and policies to be adopted in dealing with them" opens today under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. The symposium at the Plaza Hotel in Amman is organised by the Arab Thought Forum and will be attended by prominent officials and intellectuals from different Arab countries. It is hoped that the working papers and the research projects to be submitted to the meeting will not include a great deal of figures and statistics of which many people are well aware. Rather, our hope is to see papers concentrating attention on alternative options and policies available for the policy-makers, enabling them to find a way out of the present chronic financial problems which have now assumed crisis proportion, threatening Arab countries' very independence.

Although the world has become accustomed to regarding Arabs as being wealthy, with no clear thought about what to do with funds at their disposal, the harsh truth is that the Arab countries are in deep debt; estimates put these debts at between \$100 to \$150 billion. This is roughly equal to 15 per cent of the Third World's total debt, with the major brunt being shouldered by Arab non-oil producing countries.

Heavy foreign debt is an unhealthy sign for any economy. What is particularly disturbing is the example of those countries in Africa, Latin America and the Arab World where the service of foreign debts amounts to a high percentage of these countries' Gross National Product. What is more disturbing in most cases is the fact that many of the loans acquired by countries in the Third World had not gone for implementing income-generating economic projects that could help repay the debts.

Participants in today's symposium, representing the elite of Arab economists, bankers, and decision makers, possess such skills, qualifications and experience that prompt us to follow the deliberations with a great deal of attention and interest. We sincerely hope that the participants will arrive at practical conclusions that could help the Arab World in making the right decisions to solve their problems and in containing the looming crisis in their economies.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Iran continues aggression

TWO weeks following the last Iranian defeat in the battlefield, the Tehran regime launched a new offensive into Iraq. The continued attacks clearly demonstrate Iran's persistence in pursuing aggression and throwing into the incinerator more and more victims. The continued war clearly shows that the Tehran regime is afraid of peace and of the Iranian people who are bound to make them account for their evil deeds. The new offensive clearly indicates that the war mongers and the weapon dealers are continually pouring arms into Iran to fuel the conflict that is bound to further weaken Arab and Muslim nations. This war is needed to distract the Arabs and Muslims from Israel, the real danger and the threat to world peace. Had it not been for the continuous flow of arms into Iran over the past two years, the Tehran regime would not have pursued its expansionist objectives. The weapons come from those countries that have lost all credibility and above all lost the hope of ever imposing hegemony and domination over the people of the Middle East and the Gulf regions. The new offensive can by no means prevent the convening of an Islamic summit in Kuwait on Jan. 26 as the Tehran regime hopes to achieve, because the Iraqi armed forces are bound to crush the Iranian invaders. The incinerator which is being fed by the evil war mongers has helped only to burn up more and more victims of the Iranian people. It is high time for measures to be taken to stop the sale of arms to Iran and for punishing the criminals who try to do harm to the Arab and Islamic nations.

Al Dustour: Iran plots to sabotage summit

AS preparations are going ahead for holding an Islamic summit conference, the Iranians continue their drive to launch more military adventures into Iraqi territory only to be beaten back and to suffer more humiliating defeats. The new offensive followed futile attempts on the part of the Tehran regime to prevent the convening of the Islamic conference in Kuwait and represents another attempt by the Iranian rulers to exercise blackmail and threat against the Islamic countries intending to attend the summit. Having found itself totally isolated from the rest of the Islamic world, Iran has embarked on the new adventure hoping to embarrass the leaders meeting in Kuwait or to stall the conference. Of course Tehran has been preparing for this aggression for a long time and has massed huge forces along the battlefield for the sake of occupying Arab land and imposing domination on the Gulf. We strongly condemn the new Iranian aggression on Iraq, which has been intended to cause rifts in the ranks of the Islamic nation. But we are certain of the Iraqi victory over the invaders and we hope that the Iraqi people and armed forces will inflict more defeats on the Iranian adventurers. We also call on the Islamic nation to double its efforts to end the conflict and so deprive the enemies of Islam from reaping the fruit of their collusion and their plots against our nation. This futile war, as the Soviet Union lately declared, can only serve the interests of the United States and Israel, and all the enemies of stability, security and peace.

Sawt Al Shaab: Tehran sends more to the incinerator

IT seems certain that the Iranian troops taking part in the current offensive on Iraq are heading for an open graveyard, and it looks certain that the Tehran regime will suffer yet another shameful defeat at the hands of the Iraqi armed forces. The Iraqi armed forces and people are not only defending Iraqi territory but they are also protecting the entire Arab order. Iraqi military strategists and foreign military observers have been expecting such Iranian military adventures but they are also sure of the defeat of the Iranian forces like on previous occasions when the Iranians paid dearly with thousands of killed, wounded and imprisoned. Despite the setbacks, the Iranians are continuing the war in the Shatt Al Arab area which has been transformed into an incinerator swallowing up Iranian troops and military machines. The Tehran regime realises the strong Iraqi defences and yet it tends to send thousands of Iranian people to their death. If this war is not going to achieve a military success for the rulers in Tehran it will also certainly fail to achieve Iran's diplomatic attempt of cancelling the convening of the coming Islamic summit in Kuwait.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

Coping with ups and downs of oil price

OIL is probably the single most important factor influencing the Jordanian economy. When oil prices rocketed over two years ago we suffered because the bill for imported oil reached around \$600 million a year. Every dollar added to the price of a barrel of oil meant \$25 million added to the cost of imported oil to Jordan. Conversely, when the price of oil declined we also suffered because we received less Arab aid and the number of Jordanian expatriates in Gulf states decreased, and thus we received less remittances, exported less. This led us into recession, unemployment and bigger deficits.

As always though we could look at the positive side of things and notice that the Jordanian economy could not doubt benefit from cheaper oil prices because in this case we could save in our oil imports' bill and improve our balance of trade and our balance of payments. We could also benefit from higher prices in the form of more external jobs for our surplus manpower, more exports of our products to the Gulf markets, and possibly more Arab financial aid to the Treasury.

In general, however, cheaper prices of oil have direct and short term benefits. But they also have an indirect negative impact in the

longer run. Whichever direction the price of oil takes, we are influenced, whether we like it or not, as we live in the shadow of oil price fluctuations.

But that is only the external side of oil economics. On the international side we find that domestic prices are not directly connected to the international prices. Although domestic prices were raised several times, the last of which in the latter part of 1984, yet domestic prices were always below the cost. The government used to absorb the difference to the extent of approximately JD 50 million in 1983. Total subsidies in 10 years to 1985 reached approximately JD 300 million.

Based on the latest domestic fuel prices, the government would reach the break-even point if the price of the barrel stood at \$24. Since it dropped to an average of \$13 in 1986, the government was able to make windfall money for the first time to the extent of JD 90 million, which was the only bright spot in the budget of 1986.

Now that the price is back to \$18 per barrel, and expected to stay there for the time being, the negative fuel subsidy will be slashed in half by almost \$125 million or JD 44 million.

On paper at least such an eventuality will not disturb Jordan's budget for 1987, which was based on \$18 per barrel. Nevertheless it means that the government will not be able to make available more than JD 45 million in 1987 to cover part of the big deficit expected in the budget.

Since the price of oil is so volatile, there would be no attempt to revise or reduce domestic prices, because stability of prices is much better than reducing prices of energy today and increasing them suddenly tomorrow.

The profits made by the government in 1986 together with those expected in 1987 will not exceed one half of the previous accumulated losses over the years to 1984. So, maintaining the current prices of energy in the domestic market is not adversely affecting the competitiveness of the productive sector, because the only item that is currently overcharged is the gasoline used by cars. All other forms of energy are priced at cost or close to cost. The motorists are thus the only group of fuel consumers that is currently contributing to the surplus.

Both sides of the divide would benefit from a more assertive Western Europe

By Helmut Schmidt

The following is the first in a two-part article that appeared recently in the West German newspaper, Die Zeit. The writer is former West German chancellor. The second part will appear in tomorrow's issue of the Jordan Times.

It took me some time to think about the world wars to impress on Europeans the unity, over and above national diversity, of their culture, their values and their history.

Many Europeans feel European self-assertion is much more urgent today than it was in 1945, and more urgently needed than after Soviet intervention in the German Democratic Republic (GDR) in 1953, in Hungary in 1956 or in Czechoslovakia in 1968.

In 1945 those of us who care about the basic value of freedom of the individual, which took historic shape in Europe, — and the values of democracy to which it gave rise — set out to establish a bulwark against the irresistible westward advance of the all-powerful state and the hegemony of the Russo-Soviet ideology of communism.

But in 1953, 1956 and 1968 we Europeans were teeth-graspingly forced to realise that we were unable, without running the risk of a world war, to effectively challenge the rape of neighbouring European nations.

Thereafter, from the late 1960s until well into the second half of the 1970s, most people in both Eastern and Western Europe based their hopes on a balance of power between East and West, envisaged in terms of arms limitation agreements and treaties renouncing the use of force.

They expected a resulting relaxation of tension in the wake of which they hoped to resume growing cultural, economic and political ties between Europeans on both sides.

These expectations were, to begin with, fulfilled, albeit hesitantly. But they were then dealt a painful damper by the hegemonic claims relayed by the USSR in Afghanistan in 1979 and in Poland in 1981.

As the U.S. leadership abandoned its policy of détente too, a new situation dawned on Europeans, with the military hegemony of power of the Soviet Union facing the leading Western power, America, on a bipolar basis and neither paying much heed to its allies.

political leadership of the two superpowers has faced growing mistrust since the beginning of the 1980s.

Reykjavik increased this alarm, with neither superpower creating the impression of pursuing a deliberate strategy and neither leader seeming to have mentioned European interests.

The Reykjavik meeting highlighted both the possible advantages and, more clearly still, the grave risks inherent in negotiations for which there have been no careful advance preparations by diplomats.

The so-called experts in Washington, Moscow, Brussels and Bonn have since soon set about dismantling, or hedging with illusory provisos, some of the far-reaching agreements the two leaders surprisingly mapped out in the Icelandic capital.

It was a mistake on Mr. Gorbachev's part to want to take Mr. Reagan by surprise with a comprehensive package of proposals.

The U.S. president's mistake was to promptly take him up on the offer, without pausing for thought and without consulting his allies.

An even graver mistake was the impression President Reagan conveyed of viewing any kind of progress on arms limitation as less important than swift implementation of SDI, his idea fixe.

On SDI both sides suppressed important facts. Moscow made two points: that SDI couldn't possibly work and that it mustn't be allowed to happen.

In point of fact Moscow has been researching and developing comparable weapons systems for 25 years.

In 1972, when SDI still went by the name of ABM, both Mr. Brezhnev and President Nixon well knew that neither could ever push the other into a corner again.

The Soviet Union has never yet had to accept a Western military-technical advantage for longer than three or four years. Aircraft carriers merely appeared to disprove this point, Moscow first having to build up a sizable fleet of its own.

At times the Soviets have even had the edge. The T 34 was more than a match for Hitler's tanks. The Sputnik led the world. So, arguably, do Soviet laser weapons today.

Falling reciprocal treaty commitments to arms limitation, Mr. Gorbachev will simply go ahead with a Soviet SDI, calling on Soviet citizens to make extra economic sacrifices if need be.

Yet he is not admitting anything of the kind. If he did, the effective accusations be levelled at President Reagan on TV would forfeit part of their credibility.

Mr. Reagan's experts are well aware of this fact, but the President is not letting on, as otherwise his utopia of final, comprehensive protection for the American people would forfeit part of its credibility.

Both leaders have long known that SDI or ABM can at best provide protection for a few areas, as the aggressor could at no great expense double and redouble the number of warheads in his strategic missiles and, by saturation, potentially overtax the complicated and extremely expensive SDI systems.

Both sides already have tens of thousands of nuclear warheads stockpiled.

The economic sacrifices required would be enormous. The United States invests between six and seven per cent of GNP a year in military spending, the Soviet Union between 12 and 14 per cent.

Mr. Gorbachev would prefer not to have to set aside for the military an even larger share of Soviet productive capacity.

In Washington there are, in contrast, some officials who hope to wage a war of economic attrition they are convinced America could win.

In fact Mr. Reagan has far overtaxed America's savings and capital commitment potential since 1982 with his budget deficits.

In 1982 the United States needed no net capital inflow from abroad to finance domestic borrowing requirements. Today well over \$100bn a year comes from the rest of the world.

America's foreign debt is increasing fast, and with it the risk of fresh dollar inflation.

President Reagan will leave his country at least \$500bn in debt. This burden could even jeopardise the dollar's status as an international reserve currency.

Guatemala's guerrillas have survived three decades of army campaigns which included "scorched earth" operations, aimed at destroying the rural support base of the rebels. In the early 1980s, army units burned down entire villages expected of harbouring guerrillas.

In the first year of an operation dubbed "Bullets and Beans" in 1983, human rights organisations said between 3,000 and 5,000 peasants were massacred. But the guerrillas fight on, "down but not out," as one diplomat put it.

In El Salvador, officials and diplomats say they can imagine guerrilla hands still fighting in the year 2000 because the army is incapable of delivering a knockout blow to insurgent forces.

The rebels' lack the strength to seriously challenge the U.S.-supported army. Politically, neither they nor the government have been willing to budge from irreconcilable positions.

Last November, the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies, a widely-respected think-tank on military affairs, said the wars in El Salvador and Nicaragua were stalemate because none of the antagonists enjoyed a clear advantage.

Even big increases in arms and men failed to break the stalemate. El Salvador's army has grown

from 15,000 in 1980 to 52,000 today. In Nicaragua, the rebel force has grown to about 18,000 from a few hundred in 1982 and the army has multiplied tenfold to over 64,000.

Latin American diplomats blame this on the superpowers. They say that while the United States pumped billions of dollars in arms and aid to the government of El Salvador and the Nicaraguan contras, the Soviet Union helped build the Nicaraguan army into the biggest in the region.

Supplies, from bullets and mortars to helicopter gunships and combat aircraft, have continued despite urgent pleas

in their campaigns that the time has come for West Germans to take a more forward-looking view.

"Without denying the lessons of history, we must finally step out of the shadows of the third reich," Strauss told a CDU rally in Dortmund recently. "We need a normal, self-confident national identity," Strauss said.

Kohl, 56, has spoken in similar terms, urging West Germans to consider German history as a whole rather than just the 12 dark years of the third reich.

"He frequently uses the term 'vaterland' (fatherland), long-spurned because of its associations with Nazism, and

hegemony. This applies to economic structure, monetary, finance and trade policies.

By means of the treaty provisions of the Council for Mutual Economic Cooperation (Comecon) they form part of a network of strictly bilateral trade agreements, with fixed prices and strict bilateral balancing of trade accounts, to the Soviet Union's advantage.

There is no common market in goods or products within Comecon. There is not even a joint and multilateral account currency. There is certainly no such thing as a common finance market.

The benefits of a conceivable system of sharing out investment and production between Comecon countries in relation to comparative cost are unknown in the East Bloc and therefore go unused.

The relative small proportion of Eastern European countries' trade with the West and with the rest of the world provides small and limited emergency valves.

Moscow takes good care to ensure that these valves are not in a position to assume strategic economic significance.

Yet indirectly Eastern Europe derived definite benefit from the decade of treaties and détente negotiated by the Soviet Union and the Atlantic alliance from the late-1960s to the late-1970s.

The Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), at which all European states except Albania were represented in Helsinki in 1975, was the climax of the détente era.

Helsinki provided the countries of Eastern Europe with an opportunity of making a public appearance on their own behalf and of giving expression, cautious and only verbal maybe, to their own interest in arms limitation and economic cooperation.

The Helsinki review conferences since held in Madrid, Stockholm and Vienna have become largely entangled in the bureaucratic, diplomatic undergrowth.

The decline in Mr. Brezhnev's leadership, which grew steadily more apparent from 1978, and the subsequent cataract of gerontocracy in Moscow (Andropov and Chernenko) did not improve the Eastern European countries' chances of asserting their own interests.

from eight Latin American countries for an end to outside intervention and a ban on arms shipments to Central America.

The eight countries — Mexico, Panama, Venezuela, Colombia, Argentina, Peru, Brazil and Uruguay — are engaged in a diplomatic effort to work out negotiated solutions for Central America.

The secretaries general of the United Nations and the Organisation of American States (OAS) are scheduled to join foreign ministers of the eight countries on a peace mission to Central America in mid-January. Their prospects of success are rated slim.

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The secretaries general of the United Nations and the Organisation of American States (OAS) are scheduled to join foreign ministers of the eight countries on a peace mission to Central America in mid-January. Their prospects of success are rated slim.

Supplies, from bullets and mortars to helicopter gunships and combat aircraft, have continued despite urgent pleas

in their campaigns that the time has come for West Germans to take a more forward-looking view.

"Without denying the lessons of history, we must finally step out of the shadows of the third reich," Strauss told a CDU rally in Dortmund recently. "We need a normal, self-confident national identity," Strauss said.

Kohl, 56, has spoken in similar terms, urging West Germans to consider German history as a whole rather than just the 12 dark years of the third reich.

"He frequently uses the term 'vaterland' (fatherland), long-spurned because of its associations with Nazism, and

hegemony. This applies to economic structure, monetary, finance and trade policies.

By means of the treaty provisions of the Council for Mutual Economic Cooperation (Comecon) they form part of a network of strictly bilateral trade agreements, with fixed prices and strict bilateral balancing of trade accounts, to the Soviet Union's advantage.

There is no common market in goods or products within Comecon. There is not even a joint and multilateral account currency. There is certainly no such thing as a common finance market.

The benefits of a conceivable system of sharing out investment and production between Comecon countries in relation to comparative cost are unknown in the East Bloc and therefore go unused.

War, political violence kill 8,000 Central Americans in 1986

By Bernd Debusmann
Reuter

MEXICO CITY — Wars and political violence killed about 8,000 Central-Americans in 1986 — 22 every day — despite a decline in the death toll in two of the three countries fighting insurgencies.

For the first time, both El Salvador and Guatemala reported a decrease in the number of people killed in fighting between government forces and left-wing guerrillas.

But in Nicaragua, where the Sandinista government battles against United States-backed "hit" rebels, the death toll continued to climb.

According to figures given by Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas, the head of El Salvador's Roman Catholic Church, the war between the U.S.-supported government of President Jose Napoleon Duarte and guerrillas of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) caused 1,725 casualties — dead and "disappeared" — in 1986.

The corresponding church figure for 1985 was 1,913. El Salvador's overall death toll since 1979, when the country slid into civil war, is now estimated at 64,000. Many victims in previous years were killed by rightist death squads, whose activities dropped sharply in 1986.

In Guatemala, military sources put the toll from war-related violence at about 900 in 1986, the

first year of democratic government under President Vinicio Cerezo. It was the lowest figure reported in a decade.

In Nicaragua, Defence Minister Humberto Ortega said that 1,019 government troops and about 4,000 rebels had been killed in 1986. Officials said at least 300 civilians also had died.

The reported total of over 5,300, compared with 4,608 in 1985, reflects a steady increase in the level of fighting between the army and insurgent forces pledged to topple the ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN).

According to Sandinista figures, rebel losses rose from 40 dead in 1981, to 337 in 1982, 1,853 in 1983, 3,017 in 1984, and more than 4,000 in 1985.

Both the Sandinistas and the guerrillas, known as contras for the Spanish word for counter-revolutionary, expect a sharp upsurge in fighting this year as weapons and supplies from a \$100 million U.S. aid package reach the rebels.

Military experts in Central America say the contras, who so far have not achieved any of their stated objectives, feel under pressure to stage significant operations to prove themselves worthy of continued U.S. assistance.

Although the nature and intensity of Central America's conflicts differ, analysts say they have one thing in common: They are unlikely to be solved by

military force alone.

Guatemala's guerrillas have survived three decades of army campaigns which included "scorched earth" operations, aimed at destroying the rural support base of the rebels. In the early 1980s, army units burned down entire villages expected of harbouring guerrillas.

In the first year of an operation dubbed "Bullets and Beans" in 1983, human rights organisations said between 3,000 and 5,000 peasants were massacred. But the guerrillas fight on, "down but not out," as one diplomat put it.

In El Salvador, officials and diplomats say they can imagine guerrilla hands still fighting in the year 2000 because the army is

incapable of delivering a knockout blow to insurgent forces.

The

A postman who found a way to clean dirty water

By Michael Jach

A HUNDRED years ago, when the industrial revolution was at its height, all the world admired the inventor, the kind of man who could bend into the woods with a tin can and come back with a locomotive.

In our times, when environmental protection is the thing, all the world hopes that the boffins will be able to master dust, dirt and poisons, because, despite everything, machines still produce them.

Twelve or thirteen years ago, a postman who became a draughtsman at a water-purification plant looked himself away in his cellar with an old washing machine.

Ralf Piepho, from the town of Bredbeck am Diester, near Hanover, came up with a system for cleaning waste water heavily impregnated with chemicals, the bane of life for every chemical plant manager. The effectiveness of his system was astonishing.

Self-educated Piepho's invention could handle varnish sludge, hydraulic oil emulsion containing PCB, liquid manure, even seepages containing dioxine such as was found at the Lower Saxony dump at Muechenhagen.

The secret of Piepho's success was kaolin and absorbent — and his discoveries are well protected. He has taken out more than 50 letters patent.

These were the foundations on which he was able to establish his own company in 1975, which now employs 40.

For the layman his discovery can be explained in this manner: kaolin, ground up finely or absorbent, is used to split up aqueous emulsion containing

harmful waste in a chain reaction, separating the water and absorbing the harmful chemical particles into the microscopic pores and capillaries of the minerals. They are then spun into watertight cocoons.

The water remaining is so harmless that it can be pumped directly into rivers or streams, or into a purification plant to produce potable water. Many industrial firms, using the Piepho system, recycle the water for further use in their own systems.

Piepho's chief chemist, Michael Kertess, saw a further possibility of economies by producing raw materials from the retrieved chemical byproducts.

Using the Piepho system liquid manure, produced in considerable quantities in agricultural Lower Saxony, is turned into an odourless fertiliser powder that releases nitrates gradually into the soil. It is good for the soil and does not harm the water table.

Piepho, 47, has been very successful. His company, Piepho Abwassertechnik GmbH, has doubled its turnover every year since it was started — sales are now DM30m. The company has subsidiaries in Italy, Switzerland, the USA and its list of customers includes many renowned names in industry.

He had two ideas that were a long way away from his training as a draughtsman. He is a man who cannot sit still and he pours forth his ideas in a torrent.

He brooded over the blueprints for a purification plant, resolving that biology alone could not achieve everything. Chemical-physical systems would have to be applied to much industrial waste.

Second, when watching a tunnel

being built he saw how clay was layered into the water channels of a mountain.

He said: "Then the penny dropped," and he hauled the disused washing machine out of its corner and began his investigations.

But how does an ordinary postman become an industrial designer? Ralf Piepho laughed, scarcely concealing his pride in his achievements.

He was at elementary school in the "bad times" after the war. His teacher urgently advised his father to send his son to high school (Gymnasium), telling him that his son had considerable abilities.

But Piepho's father, also a postman, was more concerned with a secure job for his son, so Ralf began his career behind the counter in the post office in the Hanover suburb of Linden.

When he left the postal service in 1962 he had been able to rise to the postal building department in the Hanover headquarters, because of his considerable talents as a draughtsman.

He went to night school while working in a construction engineering office. Eventually he became a qualified draughtsman. In 1971 he went self-employed and was given work by his previous employers, the construction engineers.

His career from then on was classically American, from office boy to company president.

The first prototype unit for his purification system was built in 1974 at the Volkswagen factory in Salzgitter.

He fitted an oil trap with his system. With the technology of the time the system was constructed to purify grease from cleaning water used on engines, as well as the



Ralf Piepho in front of one of his cleaning systems (Photo by Manfred Linke)

cooling emulsion used in drilling and grinding.

This waste water was continuously the subject of complaint by environmental protectionists.

His success earned him a three-year contract to supply his system. This was the basis for the foundation of his company, Piepho Abwassertechnik. Today about ten per cent of his turnover is done with the VW workshops.

News about its product percolated through the automobile industry, among workshops, petrol stations and carwashing companies. The system was just as effective with varnish and paint sediment from car spraying sheds.

Paint sludge could be neutralised so that it was no longer an environmental hazard.

In the glass industry his purification accessory contributed to economies in three ways: the costs for waste management, water used in production processes and with raw materials.

Glass particles can be separated from the cooling water used for grinding glass and the particles can be re-cycled in the glass-smelting process.

The purified water used for grinding, which previously had to be changed and purified once a week, could now remain in the circulation system.

According to Piepho, a filter system of this type pays for itself within eighteen months. He said: "Environmental protection must not be expensive. Money can be saved by applying environmental protection measures."

He has customers among the armed services. The naval bases in

Wilhelmshaven and Kiel use the Piepho system to purify warships' bilge water. The system is also used in workshops used for degreasing and painting weapons, including military vehicles.

Ralf Piepho said: "On all sides there are calls to protect the North Sea from pollution from shipping. I have valuable know-how for this."

A little while ago the West German air force was horrified to discover that its airfields were impregnated with polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) from hydraulic and lube oil used in aircraft turbines.

Piepho now has contracts to clean up six military airfields. "We do not need an advertising campaign," he said. "Word quickly gets around that we have to offer what people need." — Die Welt, Bonn.

Israeli film on Egyptian soldiers sparks furore

By Galina Vromen

Reuter

JERUSALEM — A new Israeli film portraying two lost Egyptian soldiers as heroes and Israelis as crude and aggressive has pulled in big audiences but roused a furore in high political circles.

"Avanti Popolo" began as a low-budget anti-war film with virtually unknown actors directed by young novice Rafi Bukacek.

It has since swept through local cinemas, won first prize in a film festival in Locarno, Switzerland, and been nominated by Israel as its entry in the foreign film category for the U.S. Oscar awards.

Some politicians — including hawkish retired General Ariel Sharon — have assailed the movie, saying it portrayed Jewish self-hate and self-destruction.

Bukacek has insisted in interviews on radio and television that the film was apolitical and was never intended to show Israel in a critical light.

"I absolutely did not want to make yet another film about Arab-Jewish relations," he said.

The film underscores the absurdity of war by following the route of two Egyptian soldiers who encounter an Israeli patrol unit while trying to find their way home from the Sinai desert after the 1967 Middle East war.

The movie was named for the famous Italian revolutionary song Avanti Popolo (forward, the people) which Bukacek says he often sang as a child in an Israeli youth movement.

"I remember we would walk towards the sunset and sing it in ecstasy — without understanding a word of it. It stayed with me... as a central motif of how people march and sing without understanding a thing," he said.

In parliament, right-wing Likud politician Uzi Landau initiated a debate to protest against the choice of the film to represent Israel in the Oscars, calling its submission "an international striptease."

"It is one thing to see a film or play like this within Israel, and quite another to show it abroad. It is symptomatic of the disease in our country of self-hate and self-flagellation," he told parliament.

Sharon, now head of the Industry Ministry responsible for nominating the Oscar entry, said

he did not approve of the film's selection by an independent panel of artists. He said he saw it as part of widespread alienation among Israelis.

"It comes from a much more serious, basic problem, of a constant devouring of all that is Jewish — a non-stop self-destruction that has been going on for years. It is not this or that film, we see it in everything," he said.

Most movie critics have been enthusiastic. "It is funny, absurd, ironic and surrealistic... there's never been another Israeli war film like it," the newspaper Maariv wrote.

In one poignant scene the Egyptians, who have abandoned their weapons and are close to dying of thirst, approach the Israeli unit, basking in victory and firing pot shots.

The Egyptians lunge for the Israelis' water container, and are repeatedly and brutally pulled away.

In desperation, one of the Egyptians, an actor in civilian life, recites Shakespeare's plea in Shakespeare's "Merchant of Venice" in which the Jewish merchant asks to be treated humanely and without discrimination.

"What's he saying?" asks one Israeli soldier in Hebrew. "He's gotten his role confused."

"He's gotten his role confused," answers his more educated superior. "Give him water."

The ironies continue. When the Israelis try to sneak away from the tag-along Egyptians, they are unable to read an Arabic sign warning against a mine field and are blown up.

Some critics have faulted the film for inaccuracy. The Egyptians, played by Israeli Arab actors Sami Dawid and Suhil Haddad, speak the Arabic of Palestine's Galilee region rather than Egyptian Arabic.

A love letter they find in the pocket of one of their fallen colleagues is far more sexually explicit than common in Arab cultures.

Bukacek says this only emphasises his universal message.

"The Egyptian soldiers could have been Indians or Dutchmen. This is an international story of all soldiers anywhere in the world who write to their lovers, miss them and want to go home," he said.

Looking into the future is not so far-out

By Harry F. Rosenthal

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — There's a communal bath in your future. At least the World Future Society thinks so.

It also believes that 100 years from now, a single city might have more than 100 million inhabitants and that cars will have a quarter-century lifespan and that prisoners will be guarded by robots.

In short, the World Future Society — true to its name — is far out in its thinking.

As the society issued its annual forecasts, the 10 determined to be the most thought-provoking submitted by its membership, founder Edward Cornish was asked if any of them had ever come true.

He said the society hadn't been doing them long enough for a good reading on that — it's only the third year — but that futurists in general had been mighty wrong in the past as well as mighty right.

"Where they were wrong in recent years is in missing some very important developments," said Cornish, who edits the society's magazine "The Futurist."

"As far as I know, no futurist anticipated AIDS. In common with the rest of society they didn't anticipate the development of the computer."

"Even when it became clear that the computer was going to be an important instrument of society and a major impact in our lives in the 1960s, futurists failed to anticipate how powerful it would prove, how it was going to be shrunk from the computers in the 1940s to the tiny size and extreme power of today's microcomputer. And they didn't anticipate how rapidly prices would fall."

But, Cornish said, futurists have been on the mark in other areas. For instance, they have long sounded the alarm concerning the problems of pollution. They accurately predicted landings on the moon and called attention to limitations of resources.

This year's forecasts, for example, may not be so far-out: "By the end of the next century, a single city may have more than 100 million inhabitants" says forecast No.1.

Mexico City already leads all others with 18 million people and is growing, Cornish said. By the year 2000 that number is projected at 26 million, and Cornish said new technology will permit cities that will go as deep into the ground as they go high, to accommodate even more people.

The sharp increases in sexually transmissible diseases will result in a new Victorianism in which both men and women avoid casual sex," the forecast says. Cornish explains that many homosexuals have become celibate because they fear AIDS, or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, and that heterosexuals are slow to realise it can affect them too. "They are going to have to go on adapting and changing lifestyles in a major way," he said.

As for the bathtub: in some places a two-person tub already is the wave of the future and that will give way, the society says, "to a pool in which a whole family can bathe together or a group of children can play."

The electronic prison guards will be devices that sound an alarm if the prisoner strays off the reservation.

Cornish says it doesn't take any particular training to become a futurist, it can be anyone "who takes a longer term view fairly seriously."

He stresses that what the society does every year-end is to make forecasts.

Protecting the environment: The Zimbabwean experience

By Dingana Mpondah

HARARE, Zimbabwe — A massive reforestation programme is under way in Zimbabwe, as part of a broader campaign to make people responsible for their environment. Every able-bodied citizen is being urged to plant at least one tree a year. Just about everybody, from white-collared business executives, factory workers and peasants down to five-year-old schoolchildren is involved.

The target for 1986 was 12 million trees, nearly half of them the responsibility of 5,500 schools. When the scheme first got off the ground in 1984, a thousand schools participated, with collaboration from the Ministry of Education and sponsorship from Red Barna, the Norwegian Save the Children Fund. Each school was provided with about 1,000 eucalyptus trees. The schoolchildren were urged to plant and nurture the new trees, and to cherish their environment.

Eventually, every school and public institution in Zimbabwe will be expected to play its role in the campaign. Meanwhile, the

authorities are experimenting how best to plant indigenous trees so as to protect the country's natural habitat.

One method used to promote interest in the tree-planting scheme has been an annual school competition, won in 1985 by the Nyika Primary School. Speaking at the prize-giving ceremony, the Minister of Education, Dr. Dzingirai Mutumbuka, said that the success of the programme would be judged by the number of trees that survive, not necessarily the number that are planted.

"In the past 25 years, half the world's forest cover has disappeared," he said. "It is everyone's responsibility to ensure that every tree planted is cared for, weeded, watered and protected." Dr. Mutumbuka added: "My Ministry, through these competitions, is determined to plant many trees to cater for industries, mining and manufacturing purposes; for firewood, for fruit or beauty, for shelter and for the protection of our water supplies."

Illustrated pamphlets are being distributed to every school in the country, explaining in detail to the

children why trees and reforestation are so important. Conservation may soon be added as a subject on the school curriculum.

The reforestation campaign is just one element in a broader effort by the Government to save Zimbabwe's fast-deteriorating environment. For some time, it has been trying to enlighten the masses about the long-term adverse effects not only of the random felling of trees, but also of unplanned crop cultivation. Unauthorised cultivation, especially of maize, the country's staple food, has hitherto been rampant; especially on the fertile banks of streams.

Now noticeboards are prominently displayed in strategic places, prohibiting people from cultivating less than 30 metres away from streambanks and on or near watersheds. A special taskforce was set up, armed with machetes, to cut down the crops belonging to people who flouted this rule.

Other government employees are working on an elaborate strategy to conserve Zimbabwe's wildlife, which should make the

country's conservation venture unique in Africa — provided the necessary funds are available.

Initially, both the U.S. and Italian governments had expressed interest in backing the programme, but the deal fell through, so the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development is looking for a suitable replacement donor. The conservation has been dubbed CAMPFIRE, which stands for the Communal Area Management Programme for Indigenous Resources. It is estimated that as many as two million people could benefit directly from it when it is fully operational. The principal aims are to reduce the problems of poaching and overgrazing and to protect natural resources through proper land management.

The idea is that local people should develop the ability to manage and benefit from the communal natural resources in the area. The scheme provides a sound basis for improving land management and the utilisation of wildlife resources in a way that should make the need for poaching disappear.

Under pilot projects planned for Binga, Gokwe and Omay, local people would be organised into cooperatives, everyone having an equal share. Each member would be paid a dividend from the total money accrued from the culling of animals, tanning of hides or the leasing of grazing land. Although CAMPFIRE could in principle be applied to any communal area, it will mainly be directed at communities in the northern region, where there are few extensive arable lands and poor infrastructure and communications.

The programme involves local communities taking over four main indigenous resources: wildlife, forestry, grazing and water. Individual ownership of such resources in the past has sometimes led to over-exploitation. Besides, as a paper from the Department of National Parks states: "These resources belong to the community at large, and the responsibility for managing them should lie with the community."

The document goes on: "A basic flaw in the philosophy to

date has been to assume that a powerful agency could carry out the necessary conservation for the nation. But in the long run, conservation will work only when each community has a direct stake in managing the resources and justly benefitting from its activities."

CAMPFIRE is strongly founded on the tenets of the World Conservation Strategy — produced in 1980 by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) — and fully recognises the need to promote appropriate resource management in development.

The government realises that the programme cannot, of course, be forced on people, and that local communities must be consulted about how best to implement it. The chief ecologist in the Department of National Parks, Dr. Rowan Martin, says: "The principal aim of the programme is not to lay down the law for the communities, but rather to get their participation and strengthen their position by promoting self-reliance." — Earthscan

The Paris Opera School of Dance

By Benedicte Meyssan

The Paris Opera School of Dance, founded in 1713 by Louis XIV, has been directed with a master hand since 1972 by Claude Bessy, who joined the school at the age of 9, and was appointed a Star dancer in 1956. She suffered a serious road accident, but, with extraordinary determination, took up her roles at the opera again eight months later and was a triumph in Maurice Ravel's Bolero.

Benedicte Meyssan: The Paris Opera School of Dance is the oldest institution of its kind. How does one go about joining?

Claude Bessy: Some have a vocation. Others saw a ballet performance which made them want to go in for dancing. They then take lessons in an outside school and if they show talent, their teachers direct them to the Opera. But, above all, it is a desire, a will. You can't force someone to be a dancer. It's too difficult a profession.

B.M.: How old are the youngest dancers at the Opera?

Claude Bessy: I find that they need to have some notion of dance at the age of eight or nine. It's quite sufficient. One sees too many children (girls and boys), who begin to dance at the age of four. You need to know your body to be a dancer.

B.M.: On what occasions do the students perform?

Claude Bessy: They participate in the ballet performances, and also, every year, they do 6 to 8 shows. We have our own repertoire. We also organise tours. We have been to Japan. We have a project next year for New-York and we are going to Japan again in 1989.

B.M.: In 1987, the school is moving to new premises in Nanterre. Why has this decision been taken?

Claude Bessy: Our studios are too small. We have no cloakrooms, showers or boarding facilities. The dancing lessons are given at the opera, but the students follow ordinary lessons in the Rue de Surenne or at the Lycee Racine. Students from the provinces are housed in two apartments which we rent in the Rue

de Clichy. It had become essential to group everyone together, so as to keep the time of work adequate and, above all, to enable the students to enjoy some relaxation time, which is necessary in the profession they practise.

B.M.: Will you take on more students?

Claude Bessy: Not many more. The school has been created to give dancers to the corps de ballet in priority. We foresee a maximum of 20 extra students. I would like to try to open a special class so that children who come from the provinces or from abroad can catch up with the required level, if they have the necessary qualities to be dancers of the Paris Opera standard.

B.M.: What age of students would this class be intended for?

Claude Bessy: It is generally the case for students from 17 to 18.

B.M.: Do you use audiovisual means?

Claude Bessy: We have a video department at the school. The children learn to correct themselves and to distinguish between what is well done and what isn't. It is an education of the eye, which is very important. It also allows us to keep a living memory of ballets.

B.M.: When dancers have finished their careers at the opera, what do they do on a professional level?

Claude Bessy: For the moment, nothing is being done to redirect dancers who have reached the age of forty. We have put forward proposals. We hope the government will study them. The dancers have a potential which they have stored up for 30 years, whether it is about lighting, management, costumes, photography or video. They know how all that works. It just needs a bit of polishing up. A photographer, for instance, makes a considerable amount of waste. He doesn't have a dancer's eye. He doesn't know which is the exact moment to seize. There is still a lot to do. The Paris Opera ballet corps is, at present, considered as being the best on an international level, but we have to continue to progress. The world of dance is continually evolving.



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Oxford and Charlton exit unexpectedly from FA Cup

LONDON (R) — Championship leader Arsenal cruised to a 3-1 victory at Second Division Reading Saturday, but fellow First Division clubs Charlton and Oxford were knocked out of the Football Association (F.A.) Cup by teams from the lower divisions.

Oxford was soundly beaten 3-0 at Fourth Division Aldershot in the most unexpected result of Saturday's weather-hit third round ties while Charlton lost 2-1 at home to Third Division Walsall after leading 1-0.

Two other First Division clubs, Norwich and Wimbledon, required late goals to avoid similar embarrassments against more modest opponents.

Norwich's Kevin Drinkell equalised in the 87th minute against Second Division Huddersfield and Wimbledon's Lawrie Sanchez and Glyn Hodges scored a goal each in the last three minutes to give their team a 2-1 win over Second Division Sunderland.

Arsenal's Scottish international striker Charlie Nicholas scored twice at Reading where Martin Hayes added Arsenal's third with a penalty, his eighth among the 15 goals he has scored this season.

The highly-rated Trevor Senior equalised Nicholas' opening goal in the first half, but succeeded only in stimulating the gunners to a high-powered second-half response.

Aldershot's giant-killing act, one of the most famous cup wins in the club's history, was watched by a crowd of only 1,966. Many of the

club's regular supporters stayed away because of a steep increase in entrance prices — a place standing on the terraces cost £9 (\$14).

But those who attended were well rewarded. Defender Colin Smith headed Aldershot ahead after six minutes and Glen Burvill and Bobby Barnes added second half goals.

Oxford was well beaten and Irish international striker John Aldridge, due to join Liverpool in a £750,000 (\$1.15 million) deal next month was substituted 20 minutes from time after failing to have one shot at goal.

Charlton's home defeat by Walsall attracted another small crowd — only 4,541 — but Walsall's fans went home happy after seeing their team come from behind to win. It was Charlton's lowest home crowd for an F.A. Cup tie since 1927.

Mark Stuart put Charlton ahead in the eighth minute, but David Kelly equalised with a 15-metre shot after 34 minutes. After absorbing heavy Charlton pressure, Walsall scored the winner through Craig Shakespeare in the 73rd minute.

Aston Villa and Chelsea fought out a thrilling 2-2 draw in which Villa equalised through Steve

Hunt with only three minutes to spare.

John Bumstead and David Speedie put Chelsea on top after Scottish midfielder Neale Cooper had scored his first goal for Villa.

Scottish international striker Graeme Sharp scored twice as cup favourite Everton had little trouble in beating Southampton 2-1. Gordon Hobson replied.

Manchester United beat its great rival Manchester City 1-0 with a goal from Northern Ireland international Norman Whiteside and Queen's Park Rangers recovered well to topple Leicester 5-2.

Alan Smith shot Leicester ahead, but England defender Terry Fenwick led a great fightback with two goals and further efforts from Sammy Lee, Robbie James and John Byrne ensured a big win. Gary McAllister scored Leicester's second.

Tottenham had to dig into deep tradition for cup success to beat Fourth Division Scunthorpe 3-2. Gary Mabbutt put the Londoners ahead, but Steve Johnson equalised only four minutes later and it was not until Nico Claesen and Chris Waddle scored in the second half that Spurs were able to relax.

Coventry had no such trouble against Third Division Bolton. Goals from Dave Bennett, Greg Downs and Cyrille Regis gave it a 3-0 win.

In Scotland, Rangers reduced Celtic's championship lead to one point when it beat Clydebank 5-0. Celtic lost 3-2 at Dundee United.

Zamalek leads Egypt's soccer league after 3-1 away win

CAIRO (R) — African champion Zamalek, its eyes now set on the Egyptian League title, moved to the top of the 12-team table for the first time this season with a 3-1 away win against Al Masri of Port Said Friday night.

The Cairo side's victory took its points tally to 18 from nine matches, one ahead of city rival National, who entertains Ithihad of Alexandria.

Striker Nasr Ibrahim, back in action after several months on the substitutes' bench, opened the score for Zamalek in the 23rd minute when he recovered a header by Gamal Abdul Hamid which bounced off the right post.

Masri, fast-losing its reputation for being hard to beat at home, pulled the score level 15 minutes later. Zamalek's defender Khaled Galal, misjudging a long ball by

the hosts' Eino, headed the ball towards his own goal and Masri's Mohammad Said had only to make sure with a stretched foot.

Hamid, whose goal-scoring touch was pivotal in Zamalek's African Champions' Cup triumph last month, restored the guests' lead three minutes before the interval with a header.

Hamid, an opportunist with an eye for half chances, made it 3-1 shortly after the break. He stole a back pass from defender Sayed Abdul Latif, dribbled past goalkeeper Adel Abdul Monaim and sent the ball into the empty goal.

Isma'il of the Suez Canal city of Ismailia, less than a week after beating then-leader National in a major upset, was held to a scoreless draw at home by lowly Domiat.

Zurbruggen wins Garmisch downhill

GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN, West Germany (AP) — Pirmin Zurbruggen of Switzerland won a men's downhill Saturday and took the lead in overall World Cup ski standings.

The Swiss ace, starting outside the top-ranked group of 15 downhill racers, mastered the fresh snow on the 3,320-metre long Kandahar course in one minute, 50.33 seconds to record his third downhill victory this season.

Michael Mair of Italy placed second in 1:50.59, his second runner-up finish in a downhill this season.

Swiss veteran Peter Mueller took third place in 1:50.83, while Markus Wasmeier of West Germany finished fourth in 1:51.82.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Cuba wins in women's volleyball

LONDON (AP) — World silver medalist Cuba posted an emphatic 3-0 victory over East Germany Friday to win an International Women's Volleyball Tournament at the Alexandra Pavilion. The Cuban team, which almost arrived in Britain too late to play in the tournament, swept the Europeans, world ranked no. 4, aside 15-10, 15-5, 15-4 in the final of the four-nation event.

Spanish goalie fights for life

MALAGA, Spain (R) — Malaga goalkeeper Jose Gallardo was fighting for his life in a local hospital as a result of a clash during a Spanish Second Division soccer match last month, a club spokesman said. He said Gallardo needed an emergency operation Wednesday after suffering a brain hemorrhage and was still in a coma. The 25-year-old goalkeeper was carried off after an accidental clash with Brazilian striker Baltazar Moraes, the Second Division's leading scorer, during a match between Malaga and Celta on Dec. 21. He was taken to hospital in Vigo and transferred to a Malaga clinic two days later. Doctors there allowed him to return home, where he had been recovering well until Wednesday.

Swiss Gafner wins downhill

SCHWARZENBERG, Austria (AP) — Beatrice Gafner of Switzerland beat compatriot Maria Walliser Saturday to win the season's third women's World Cup downhill race. Third was Siegride Winkler of Austria. Gafner, 22, covered the 3,063-metre course with a vertical drop of 700 metres and 40 gates in two minutes and 8.71 seconds for her sensational first World Cup victory after Walliser had long looked the obvious winner. Walliser posted 2:09.14 ahead of Winkler whose time was 2:09.49.

Brewery to increase yachting sponsorship

LONDON (R) — Whitbread, the British drinks firm, announced its highest-ever sponsorship deal for the next round-the-world Yacht Race, the fifth in the competition. The company said on Saturday it would put up £4 million (\$5.9 million) for the race due to start in September 1989 from the south of Hampshire in southern England. This more than quadruples Whitbread's previous biggest sponsorship for what it regards as "the world classic in the ocean racing calendar."

Striker Zeid voted Egypt's top player

CAIRO (R) — A poll of more than 100 sports writers and commentators made international striker Taher Abu Zeid Egypt's 1986 footballer of the year. Publishing the results of its annual poll, the newspaper Al Massa said Abu Zeid, who plays for Cairo's National club, received 40 of 103 votes. Striker Gamal Abdul Hamid of National's arch-rival Zamalek was runner-up with 34 votes. Abu Zeid, 25, made his debut in international soccer in the 1981 youth World Cup in Australia. He was top scorer in the 1984 African nations' finals in Ivory Coast in which Egypt, who started as favourites, finished a dismal fourth.

Australia IV is assured of defender final berth

FREMANTLE, Australia (R) — Australia IV's place in the defenders final of the America's Cup was assured Saturday when the two defending Australian syndicates resolved a row over a crucial protest.

The Royal Perth Yacht Club said in a statement that Australia IV and Kookaburra III would race in the best-of-nine final starting on Wednesday regardless of whether a jury decided to reopen a protest which could have put Australia IV's place in doubt.

It said the club and syndicate chiefs Alan Bond of Australia IV and Kevin Parry of Kookaburra III had agreed in a meeting that total cooperation was paramount to the defence of the cup, which Bond won for Australia for the first time in 1983.

Australia IV's place in the final hung in the balance Friday night when an international yachting jury adjourned a meeting on whether to reopen a protest by Kookaburra II, the other yacht in the Parry Syndicate.

If the jury had decided to reopen the protest and ruled in the Kookaburra's favour, the final would have been an all-Kookaburra affair.

Kookaburra II wanted the jury to rehear a protest it rejected earlier this week over the methods Australia IV used to fly an unusual balloon-like head sail in their semifinal race on Tuesday.

"Australia IV and Kookaburra III will race each other in the final series of the defender selection trials irrespective of the result and consideration by the protest committee," the Royal Perth Yacht Club statement said.

On Thursday, Australia IV lost six points to Kookaburra III when the jury disqualified it over a collision between the two yachts in Wednesday's last semifinal race.

Kookaburra III has topped the standings over three months of racing with 83 points against Australia IV's 77 and Kookaburra II on 70.

The Perth-based millionaire syndicate heads have injected a total of 20 million Australian dollars (\$12 million) into Australia's first defence of the 135-year-old cup.

The defender trials have been marred by more than 40 protests and the Parry Syndicate's tough campaigning to put both its yachts in the final angered many Bond supporters.

Radio stations were receiving calls before Saturday's meeting demanding that Australia IV be allowed to sail in the final. In Fremantle, some Parry followers were reported to have handed in their syndicate T-shirts and supporters' badges.

The winner of the defender final will meet either New Zealand or Stars and Stripes in the best-of-seven final of the America's Cup starting on Jan. 31. New Zealand and Stars and Stripes begin their best-of-seven challenger final on Tuesday.

Mecir meets Schapers in NZ final

AUCKLAND (R) — Top seed Miloslav Mecir, the Czechoslovakian ranked 9th in the world, will meet Dutchman Michiel Schapers in Sunday's singles final of the New Zealand Tennis Grand Prix.

Mecir won his semi-final against American Derrick Rostagno Saturday 6-2, 6-1. Schapers had a tougher battle in getting past Australian Carl Limberger 2-6, 6-3, 6-4 in the other semi-final.

On Saturday's performances, the final looks nothing but a mere formality for Mecir, who displayed all his deceptive skills in crushing Rostagno in just 55 minutes.

Rostagno admitted to feeling a little tired after his marathon win over fourth-seeded Ramesh Krishnan of India in the quarter-finals Friday. He said he had planned to play an attacking game Saturday.

But too many of his big shots were astray and with so many unforced errors he was never able to put Mecir under pressure.

Mecir broke Rostagno's serve four times to win the second set and his only hiccup was a service drop to 1-5 before he broke back to win the match.

Schapers was never able to assert that sort of dominance over Limberger who was making his first appearance in a Grand Prix semi-final.

Shriver, Garrison move to Sydney tennis final

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Second-seeded Pam Shriver of the United States overpowered Manuela Maleeva of Bulgaria 6-3, 6-3 Saturday to advance to the final of the \$150,000 New South Wales Open tennis championship at White City.

Shriver took exactly an hour to down fifth-seeded Maleeva, who is essentially a baseliner and lacked the aggression to trouble the tall American.

Zina Garrison, of the United States, will face Shriver in Sunday's final of the Virginia Slims series grass court event.

Garrison was extremely consistent in defeating 10th seeded Wendy Turnbull of Australia 6-3, 6-4 in 65 minutes in the other semi.

Shriver, who was defeated by Hana Mandlikova of Czechoslovakia in the final of last week's Brisbane tournament, showed she will be a major threat in next week's Ford Australian Open at Kooyong.

She served and volleyed with her customary accuracy and Maleeva had no answer to her mastery at the net.

Shriver's performance was all the more impressive in that she was hampered by a slight hamstring strain to her right leg suffered during her quarterfinal victory over Sweden's Catarina Lindqvist on Friday.

"The injury was new and I didn't know how it was going to behave," she said. "It was a tougher match than I at first thought. I missed more shots than I wanted, but my game is all there. I'll just have to raise the level in the final and I think I can do it."

Maleeva tipped Shriver to defeat Garrison.

"Pam is so tall she can reach all the volleys," she said. "When a serve-and-volleyer is that tall it is hard to defeat her on grass. She has an extreme advantage."

Garrison qualified for the sixth final of her career at the expense of a disappointing Turnbull, who was never able to put sustained pressure on the American.

Garrison made only one final last year, losing to doubles partner Lori McNeil at Tampa in September, and was delighted to start the New Year on a better note.

Turnbull threatened briefly, rallying from 2-4 to 4-4 in the second set, but Garrison was untroubled.

"She took advantage of a couple of weaker shots, but I just kept to my strategy," said Garrison.

"I've come to the net more in this tournament than I did the whole of last year," she joked. Garrison said she was glad to put a disappointing 1986 behind her.

Portland downs New Jersey in OT

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (AP) — Steve Johnson scored 29 points and Clyde Drexler added 21, including six in overtime, to boost the Portland Trail Blazers to a 127-120 NBA victory over the New Jersey Nets.

Portland's victory Friday halted a six-game Nets home winning streak.

With 2:39 left in regulation, Portland led 112-105 after two Johnson free throws. But the Nets forced the game into overtime when Leon Wood scored seven of his 16 points, including a rebound of his own miss at the four-second mark that tied it at 114.

In the extra period, New Jersey took a quick 118-116 lead, but Drexler scored four points to make it 120-118 for Portland. Kiki Vandeweghe added two free throws to give the Trailblazers a 122-118 edge.

Woodridge led the Nets with 30 points and Kevin McKenna added 20.

Celtics 109, Kings 99

In Boston, Robert Parish scored 28 points and grabbed 25 rebounds as the Boston Celtics rolled to their seventh consecutive victory, 109-99 over the Sacramento Kings.

Kevin McHale, going over 20 points for the 31st time in 32 games, added 26 as the Celtics hiked their Boston Garden record to 14-1.

Boston star Larry Bird was sidelined for a second consecutive game with a bad back.

Boston guards Danny Ainge and Dennis Johnson scored 13 points, while Fred Roberts, replacing Bird in the starting lineup, had 10.

Sacramento was led by Brook Steppe with 22 points. Otis Thorpe had 20 and Eddie Johnson 19.

Pistons 131, Clippers 123

In Pontiac, Adrian Dantley's 27 points led six Pistons in double figures as Detroit handed the Los Angeles Clippers their 15th consecutive defeat, 131-123.

Dantley, who hit his first 11 shots from the field, scored 11 points in the critical third quarter when Los Angeles challenged — but couldn't overcome — a slim Detroit lead.

Isiah Thomas added 20 points for Detroit and Bill Laimbeer and Joe Dumars had 19 apiece. Mike Woodson led the Clippers with 26, while Darrell Valentine had 17.

Knicks 94, 76ers 84

In Philadelphia, Patrick Ewing scored 26 points and Bill Cartwright added 22 as the New York Knicks defeated the Philadelphia 76ers 94-84.

It was the Knicks' first victory at the Spectrum since Dec. 16, 1981, having lost 15 straight games in Philadelphia, including two NBA playoff contests.

New York also had dropped eight straight games to the 76ers.

The victory was the Knicks' sixth in their last eight games, while the Sixers, held to their lowest point total of the season, had a four-game winning streak snapped.

With the Knicks leading 72-59 with 11:07 left to play, Philadelphia scored seven straight points. But New York retaliated with six consecutive points, Louis Orr's basket at 7:35 giving the Knicks a 78-66 advantage.

A jumper by Rory Sparrow with 1:46 to play gave New York its biggest lead of the game, 93-76.

Gerald Wilkins added 14 points and Treat Tucker 12 for New York, while Charles Barkley and Julius Erving each had 19 for Philadelphia.

Nuggets 116, Mavericks 113

In Dallas, Danny Schayes' layup with 1:19 to play and Mike Evans' two free throws a minute later lifted the Denver Nuggets over the Dallas Mavericks 116-113.

The game ended in controversy when referee Bill Saar called an offensive foul on Mavericks guard Derek Harper with three seconds to play, negating Harper's three-pointer that would have tied the game at 116.

Alex English led the Nuggets with 26 points. Mike Evans and Schayes added 19 each.

Mark Aguirre led Dallas with 33 points and Harper had a career-high 29.

Bullets 100, Bucks 92

In Milwaukee, John Williams led Washington with 21 points as

the Bullets overcame a 24-point deficit in the second half for a 100-92 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks.

The Bullets grabbed their first lead of the game at 79-77 on a rebound basket and free throw by Williams. After Jack Sikma's two free throws gave Milwaukee an 80-79 lead with 8:13 left, the Bullets scored eight points in the next three minutes, including three long jump shots by reserve guard Darwin Cook, to lead 87-80.

Milwaukee pulled within 88-86 with 5:13 remaining on a Jerry Reynolds basket, but could come no closer.

Terry Cummings led the Bucks with 28 points, while Moses Malone had 18 for Washington.

Spurs 115, Suns 100

In Phoenix, Arizona, Alvin Robertson scored 12 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter while rookie Walter Berry had 11 of his NBA career-high 20 in the same period as the San Antonio Spurs snapped their 11-game road losing streak, with a 115-100 victory over the Phoenix Suns.

Robertson, the only Spur to score in double figures in every game this season, had only three points at halftime. But his layup with 3:46 left in the second period put San Antonio ahead to stay at 48-46.

Phoenix cut the gap to 88-84 on rookie Jeff Hornacek's jumper with 9:17 to go in the game before Robertson and Berry keyed a 20-8 run for a 108-93 lead with 3:01 left.

The Suns never got closer than 10 from them, losing for the fifth time in the last seven games despite 25 points from Walter Davis and 20 from Ed Pinckney.

Small, Jones heroes in final Ashes test

SYDNEY (R) — An unbeaten century by Dean Jones saved Australia from another embarrassing defeat against an England attack spearheaded by Gladstone Small on the first day of the fifth and final Ashes test at the Sydney Cricket Ground Saturday.

At close of play, Australia was 236 for seven with Jones on 119 after batting for 339 minutes in the humidity and hot sun.

Most of those wickets fell to Small, who grabbed five for 63 to match his haul in the first innings of the fourth test in Melbourne, which England won to clinch the Ashes series 2-0.

Jones had several close calls Saturday, none more so than when he was on five, with Australia 27 for one. The whole England side went up on the second ball of Small's sixth over for a catch behind by Jack Richards but the appeal was rejected.

Jones' first test century against England, which took 278 minutes with seven fours from 215 balls, followed a 93 in the third test in Adelaide and three other scores of more than 50 in the series.

Australian skipper Allan Border won the toss in a game vital for his peace of mind as captain and his future leadership, and elected to bat on the straw coloured wicket.

But his new opening partnership failed. Greg Ritchie, linking with regular opener Geoff Marsh, was lbw for six after only 20 minutes of play.

Marsh went for 24, snapped up at first slip by captain Mike Gatting off Small and, Australia was 58 for two. But a 91-run third wicket stand between Border and Jones in 137 minutes stopped the rot.

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Ortega suspends part of newly signed constitution

MANAGUA (Agencies) — President Daniel Ortega has signed Nicaragua's new constitution into law, but suspended part of it shortly afterwards.

A government statement broadcast on state radio said at least 10 articles were suspended by presidential decree, Friday, including the right to demonstrate and strike and freedom of information.

The suspensions were announced three hours after Mr. Ortega signed the constitution at a public ceremony before a crowd of several thousand but said an existing state of emergency would not be lifted.

Legal experts said that technically, the state of emergency, severely curbing civil rights, was longer in force because the constitution was now the law. "We must maintain the state of emergency, not because it is our wish... but to preserve the security of the country," Mr. Ortega said at the ceremony, which was attended by Peruvian President Alan Garcia.

Mr. Ortega said the emergency state, originally introduced in 1982, would be lifted only when the United States stopped funding the "contra" rebels fighting to topple the Sandinista government. Mr. Garcia, who at 38 is Latin America's youngest leader, said Peru's solidarity with Nicaragua

was now greater than ever. "Today, this country legitimises itself through the law... through its constitution," he said, drawing loud applause.

The proclamation of the constitution was marked by the biggest demonstration in Managua in a year.

Some 2,000 protesters from various opposition groups marched through the streets to protest censorship and demand freedom for political rallies.

Demonstrators carried banners demanding freedom for political prisoners and shouted "Communism, no, democracy, yes." Others carried placards protesting government censorship and the closure of the opposition La Prensa newspaper.

The demonstration was in open defiance of the state of emergency, which bars protests held without government permission, but police stayed in the background and the rally ended peacefully.

The constitution promises political pluralism, a mixed economy and non-alignment, and the government has described it as an example of its commitment to political pluralism.

Diplomats said it seemed designed to show Nicaragua was a social democracy rather than the "Marxist dungeon" depicted by the Reagan administration.

But a State Department spokeswoman dismissed it as a "mask for total control of Nicaragua by the Sandinista party."

Erick Ramirez, president of the Social Christian Party (PSC), said he had been summoned earlier by police who told him that under emergency regulations the rally was illegal because government permission had not been obtained. The constitution, approved by the National Assembly in November, gives Mr. Ortega the right to renew the state of emergency at the end of one year if he feels it is necessary. The old decree also was renewed periodically.

Critics had denounced the constitution as a document they said would be used as a propaganda tool to guarantee continued leftist rule.

But Carlos Nunez, president of the National Assembly and one of nine commanders of the ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front, said the constitution "buries the pretenses of our enemies, who try to cast illegitimacy on the revolutionary process."

Chinese workers reportedly refuse to join protests

PEKING (R) — China said Saturday factory workers had resisted attempts to make them join the month-long wave of protests by students calling for more democracy.

As the press continued a war of words against "capitalist freedom" which it says the students advocated, Western diplomats reported that a university professor linked to the unrest had been expelled from the Communist Party.

The diplomats said the party had expelled Fang Lizhi, vice-president of the China University of Science and Technology in Hefei, scene of the first student protest.

The official workers daily quoted top trade union official Luo Gan as saying workers at some factories had firmly resisted attempts by "people with bad motives" to make trouble.

Mr. Luo, vice-president of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions, said all factories would heighten vigilance against anyone who attempted such action again. He called on all workers to resist capitalist freedom, the term the official press uses to describe student demands.

The newspaper Wen Hui Bao said in an editorial that resisting capitalist freedom and upholding socialism and the rule of the Communist Party was extremely important.

It quoted 1981 remarks by Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping that without the party the country would descend into chaos and disintegrate.

The paper said that recently a few prominent people had advocated capitalist freedom. They gave lectures, published articles, called for Westernisation, smeared socialism and the Communist Party and demanded change in the party.

It did not name the figures but Western diplomats said some party members had been expelled because the party believed they had encouraged students to take to the streets.

They included Mr. Fang, the diplomat said. A spokeswoman for Mr. Fang's university told Reuters Saturday by telephone that he was now in Peking, not Hebei, but he was still vice-principal and allowed to teach students.

She declined to comment on whether he had been expelled from the party. A spokeswoman for Mr. Fang's university told Reuters Saturday by telephone that he was now in Peking, not Hebei, but he was still vice-principal and allowed to teach students.

Sikh terrorists kill Punjab prison chief

CHANDIGARH, India (AP) — Sikh extremists gunned down the top Punjab prison administrator Saturday at his house in this capital city, police said.

T.C. Katoch, a Hindu who served as police inspector of prison rules, was the highest ranking police official to be killed in the four-year terror campaign by Sikh extremists in troubled Punjab.

Katoch reportedly was on a Sikh extremists "hit list," but did not have any security guards with him.

The assailants rang Katoch's door bell and when he answered they fired three bullets at point-blank range, killing him instantly, police said. The gunmen escaped.

Katoch, who had just returned home from shopping, was due to retire soon.

He was the top administrative officer for prisons in Punjab, of which Chandigarh is the state capital. He had been shifted to the post from direct supervision of prisons in 1985 under pressure from Sikh politicians who alleged his treatment of Sikh youth in detention was harsh.

Sikh militants have targeted security officials, their children and police informers in their bloody campaign for a separate Sikh state.

Punjab Police Chief Julius Ribeiro escaped an assassination attempt last October in Punjab by Sikh gunmen who entered a police camp Ribeiro was visiting with his wife.

In August, retired Army Chief of Staff A.S. Vaidya was shot to death in western India by Sikh militants.

More than 700 people, mainly Hindus and moderate Sikhs, were killed in hit-and-run attacks in 1986.

Including Katoch, the death toll in terrorist violence this year stands at 24.

Sikhs, who make up just 2 per cent of India's 780 million population, claim they are discriminated against in the Hindu-dominated country. Militant Sikhs have been fighting for an independent homeland since 1983.

Marcoses have been questioned in a criminal investigation since fleeing the Philippines last February for asylum in the United States.

The grand jury is trying to determine whether there were illegal commissions or fraudulent overcharges on more than \$100 million worth of contracts to the Philippines, including the possibility of kickbacks paid to the Marcos family and its associates.

Federal grand juries in Pittsburgh and San Francisco also have been investigating alleged bribes and misuse of U.S. aid during the Marcos regime.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos and his wife, Imelda, have been subpoenaed in a federal investigation of alleged kickbacks in U.S.-financed military sales during the Marcos regime, according to a published report.

The Washington Post said in Saturday editions that Marcos is expected to testify, possibly later this month, before a federal grand jury in Alexandria, Virginia. The newspaper, quoting informed sources, said Marcos was tentatively scheduled to go before the panel on Jan. 22 but has asked for a postponement.

The appearances would mark the first time either of the

detention was harsh. Sikh militants have targeted security officials, their children and police informers in their bloody campaign for a separate Sikh state.

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Federal grand juries in Pittsburgh and San Francisco also have been investigating alleged bribes and misuse of U.S. aid during the Marcos regime.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos and his wife, Imelda, have been subpoenaed in a federal investigation of alleged kickbacks in U.S.-financed military sales during the Marcos regime, according to a published report.

The Washington Post said in Saturday editions that Marcos is expected to testify, possibly later this month, before a federal grand jury in Alexandria, Virginia. The newspaper, quoting informed sources, said Marcos was tentatively scheduled to go before the panel on Jan. 22 but has asked for a postponement.

The appearances would mark the first time either of the

detention was harsh. Sikh militants have targeted security officials, their children and police informers in their bloody campaign for a separate Sikh state.

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Soviets to see U.S. film on nuclear war

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Day After, an award-winning movie about the aftermath of atomic war, will be shown in the Soviet Union, an official of the U.S. ABC television Network has announced. Brandon Stoddard, president of ABC Entertainment, said the network has concluded negotiations with the Soviets, and a three-year licensing agreement starts on Feb. 1. "We'd like to repeat the Day After (in the United States) on the day it plays in Russia," Stoddard said. The date has yet to be set. Stoddard said the Soviets approached ABC seeking the rights to broadcast the \$7 million, two-hour and 17 minute programme about five weeks ago.

Gorbachev replies to Mexican boy's letter

ENSENADA, Mexico (AP) — A 14-year-old boy who wrote a letter to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev about world peace and nuclear disarmament got a reply delivered by the Soviet ambassador to Mexico, Eric Arturo Carreaga de la Piedad said he had decided to write to Mr. Gorbachev "because he's a young person and I thought he would understand youth." The meeting with Ambassador Rostislav Sergueev took place in a government office in this Pacific port. Sergueev had delivered a speech in Tijuana, on the California-Mexico border, the previous night. Carreaga, a ninth-grader, said he wrote to Mr. Gorbachev six weeks ago stating his concerns about world peace, poverty and "spending money on nuclear bombs when there are so many people poor and starving." He wrote the letter in English, he said, thinking it would be easier to translate. He said the reply was in Spanish and included an invitation to visit the Soviet Union. The message said the Soviet government was working hard for peace and that "all of the people of the Soviet Union share your worry for the future of the world" in light of the nuclear arms race. Carreaga said.

Soviets to get Coca-Cola soon

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet citizens will be able to buy Coca-Cola later this year under an agreement that will also increase the production of juice and other non-alcoholic drinks, the Izvestia newspaper has reported. Izvestia said Coca-Cola would probably be on sale in Moscow, Kiev and other selected Soviet cities by May. Coca-Cola announced on Dec. 9 that it had signed a long-term trade agreement for expansion of its business in the Soviet Union. The Izvestia report was the first mention of the deal in the Soviet media. Atlanta-based Coca-Cola said the accord marks the first time Coke will be bottled in the Soviet Union and sold directly to Soviet consumers. The soft drink will join arch-rival Pepsi-Cola and another Coca-Cola product, Fanta Orange drink, on the market. Supplies of the American soft drinks, however, have traditionally been sporadic in Soviet stores, and they are priced higher than other beverages such as Kvass, a fermented drink made from grain, and flavoured soda water. Because of the lack of refrigeration facilities in the Soviet Union, soft drinks are often sold lukewarm.

Son to write book about life with Reagan

NEW YORK (AP) — President Ronald Reagan's oldest son, Michael, has met with publishers about writing a book on his relationship with his father, according to a published report. The title of the book will be "On the Outside Looking In, New York magazine reports in its issue dated Jan. 19. "You can tell from the title that he isn't happy with the relationship," Michael Reagan's literary agent, Scott Meredith, told the magazine. "There will be things his father, mother and stepmother will hear for the first time." Michael Reagan, 41, of Sherman Oaks, California, is the adopted son of Reagan and the president's first wife, actress Jane Wyman. The couple divorced. Michael Reagan talked to publishers last week, according to the magazine.

Top Asian gang leader gets 20 years

NEW YORK (AP) — A man prosecutors call a top leader of the Taiwan-based international crime ring, United Bamboo, was sentenced to 20 years in prison for racketeering, drug trafficking and other crimes. Chen Chin-Yi, also known as Yellow Bird, was one of 11 United Bamboo gang members and associates convicted last September on racketeering and drug charges. Nine of the other defendants previously were sentenced to between 15 months and 25 years. Prosecutors have said the United Bamboo has 15,000 members worldwide and engages in prostitution, illegal gambling, drug dealing, extortion and gun running. Among the crimes Chen and some of his co-defendants were accused of was the 1984 slaying of Chinese-American journalist Henry Liu in his suburban San Francisco home.

Lovesick moose dumps mate

MONTPELIER, Vermont (AP) — A lovesick moose that spent 76 days wooing a brown and white cow has apparently walked away from the relationship. "He looks like he's hit the road," said Donald Gallus, Vermont game warden who closely watched the hillside love affair. "It appears he is leaving, going home." The 320-kilogram moose showed up at Larry Carrara's farm last year during mating season and took interest in Jessica the Hereford. It was last seen at the farm Wednesday night. On Thursday morning, the moose was spotted roaming a mile from the farm. It has not been spotted since. Wildlife biologists say the moose's departure was apparently triggered by the loss of his antlers Wednesday. Gallus said once a moose loses his antlers, he loses his defences, as well as sexual urges. More than 75,000 people went to Carrara's remote farm, about 250 kilometres north west of Boston, to get a glimpse of the odd couple. Those who didn't visit could hear a song called "Lovesick moose" written about the pair.

Money 'grows' on trees

MELBOURNE (R) — In Australia, money grows on trees, or so one family thought when they found 100,000 dollars (\$66,000) in a shrub in their garden. The cash, neatly bound in rubber bands, was headed to police who have promised to return it to the family if no one claims it.

Grammy Award nominees announced

BEVERLY HILLS, California (AP) — Pop stars Paul Simon, Steve Winwood, Peter Gabriel, Tina Turner and Barbra Streisand lead the list of possible nominees for the 29th annual Grammy Awards. The 5,000 voting members of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences considered 210 albums and 211 singles eligible for the awards, and balloting was for nominations in 68 categories. The nominations were to be announced Thursday, and winners announced Feb. 24. The voting covers releases between Oct. 1, 1985, and Sept. 30, 1986, making two of the best-selling albums for 1986 ineligible: Whitney Houston, which was released in the spring of 1985, and Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band Live, 1975-1985, released two months ago. Miss Houston, last year's winner of the Grammy for the Best Pop Female Vocalist, will have one eligible single, Greatest Love of All. Other strong contenders for Grammys include Lionel Richie, Dionne Warwick, Tina Turner, Robert Palmer, Huey Lewis and the News, Luther Vandross, Billy Ocean, Freddie Jackson, Billy Joel and Madonna.

New 'energy city' to be built near Chernobyl

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet authorities plan to build a new "energy city" near Chernobyl, which was evacuated due to high radiation levels after last year's nuclear accident, the Communist Party newspaper Pravda said Saturday.

Pravda said Vladimir Dolgikh, a junior member of the ruling politburo, discussed the construction of the city, Slavutich, at a meeting in Kiev this week with senior officials from the Ukraine and six other Soviet republics.

The report suggested that Slavutich was being built to

provide permanent housing for staff of the Chernobyl nuclear power station after the explosion and fire last April 26 at the plant, 130 kilometres north of Kiev.

Chernobyl workers are currently living in temporary settlements built near the power station, which resumed nuclear energy production late last year.

At the meeting, which was also attended by Ukrainian Party leader Vladimir Shcherbitsky, Mr. Dolgikh called for high-quality work to ensure the city was built quickly and that necessary transport facilities were provided, Pravda said.

Two contra groups move towards unification

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP) — The two most influential Nicaraguan rebel groups signed a joint declaration of principles opposing the Sandinista government. They called it a step toward unification.

Leaders of the United Nicaraguan Opposition, an umbrella organisation known as UNO, and the southern opposition bloc, an independent political group known as BOS, signed the document in Miami.

The declaration also was ratified by delegates to UNO's general membership Assembly, ending a two-day, closed-door meeting in San Jose. The meeting was called to discuss internal matters, according to spokesman Orion Pastora.

Pastora said further details of the agreement would be announced on Monday during a news conference here by Alfonso Robelo, one of the three main UNO leaders.

Leonardo Somarriba, UNO's Miami-based coordinator, said in a telephone interview from there that the agreement on principles "is a positive step" toward unification of the two organisations.

UNO covers more than a dozen exiled business, labour and political groups. Among its members is the Nicaraguan Democratic Front, or FDN, the largest contra combat group, which claims a fighting force of about 15,000 men.

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Experts hail drug found to stop AIDS progress

WASHINGTON (R) — Medical experts are hailing as a major breakthrough a disclosure that a new U.S. drug appears to block the progression of AIDS in individuals showing early signs of the dread disease.

"If what they say holds up statistically, this is really good news for people who have been exposed to the disease and are worried about getting a full-scale case of AIDS," said Martin Delaney, co-founder of Project Inform, a San Francisco-based organisation that has been tracking AIDS research for the past three years.

"It's very exciting because it gives us another active handle on this disease," said Dr. Thomas Merigan, director of AIDS research at the Stanford University Medical Centre.

The statements came as a California drug company announced that one of its products, the anti-viral agent Ribavirin, had been found in clinical trials to block the development of AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) in a group of individuals showing one of the most common early symptoms of the disease.

Officials of ICN pharmaceuticals Inc. of Costa Mesa said the finding was based on clinical trials on 163 patients with lymphadenopathy syndrome (LAS), a condition of swollen

lymph nodes that often precedes the development of AIDS.

The officials said that of 52 patients with LAS given 800 milligrams of Ribavirin a day, none developed AIDS.